



P E TECHNIKON

DIPLOMADAG

1984

DIPLOMA DAY

1984-05-11

Oggendplegtigheid (Geesteswetenskappe) 11H00 Morning Ceremony (Humanities)

NATIONALE DIPLOMA IN
TEGNOLOGIE

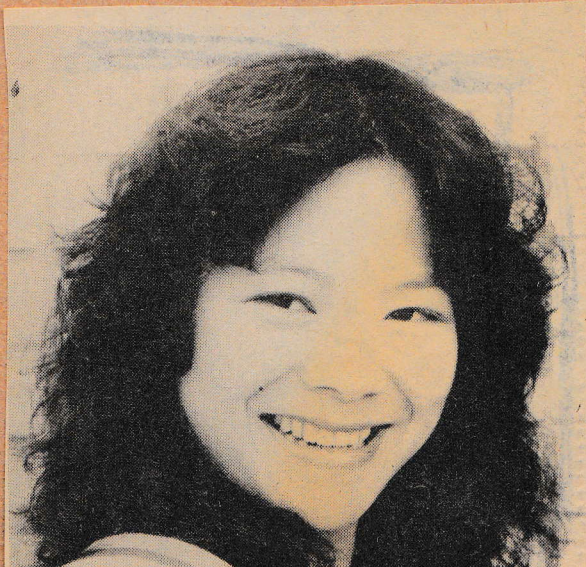
Skilderkuns:

NAAM
NAME

J. Ah Kun

TEGNOLOGIE / GEESTESWETENSAPPE
TECHNOLOGY / HUMANITIES

SITPLEKNO.
SEAT NUMBER



MEJ. J. AH. KUN glimlag tevrede op die diplomadag van die Port Elizabethse Technikon nadat sy die Nasionale Diploma in Tegnologie (skilderkuns) verwerf het.

MAY 1984

RETURNED
TERUGGEGE

GOWN NO. TOGA NO.	229	
NECKBAND NEKBAND	White with Union Jack Red Stripe 103	

Impressive first for young painter

By **MARIETTE VAN MANEN**

"PAINTING is an extension of one's personality, a bringing to life of one's emotional experience," says Janet Ah Kun (23), first girl and first student to gain a National Diploma in Technology in Fine Art (painting) at the PE Technikon.

Janet is one of only four people in South Africa in possession of this particular diploma, gained at the end of five years of intensive study and equal to a university honours degree in fine art.

It is not only a first for Janet, but an admirable first for the PE Technikon as the other three diplomas were awarded to established artists who are staff members of the Technikon.

Alexander Podlshuc, who specialised in graphic art, was the first person awarded the diploma (cum laude) at the end of 1982. Leon De Bliquy (graphic art) and Anthony Nesbitt (stained glass, cum laude) gained their diplomas in 1983, as did Janet.

A high standard is set and to qualify Janet had to exhibit her own work as well as submit a thesis and a portfolio (photos) of her paintings.

Janet did a thesis on "The life and work of Dorothy Kay", illustrated by photographs taken by herself. The thesis is the only reference work on Dorothy Kay and is available to students in the Technikon library.

At present Janet is hard at work preparing for her first public exhibition to be held in April at the PE Fine Art Society centre. The 10 works she exhibited at the Bathurst Agricultural Show last year earned her nine prizes, among them three firsts.

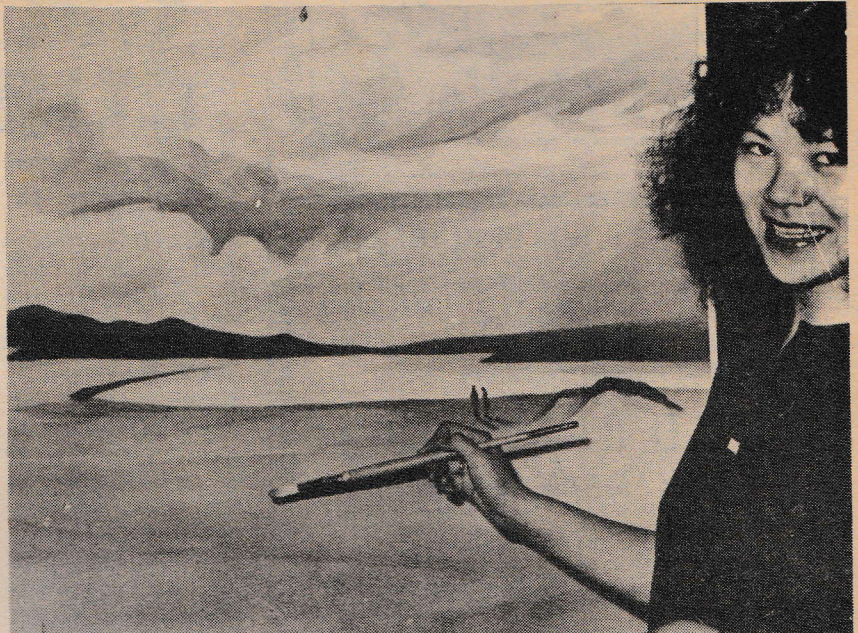
"I love working in oils," says Janet, who prefers large canvasses and concentrates on landscapes and seascapes. "Painting is not just a flick of the wrist, it involves the whole body, it is complete movement and large canvasses with oils as medium give the scope one needs to express this movement."

Detail is not important to Janet, but "it is important to put across the mood, the feeling one experienced on first seeing the particular subject."

Personal relationships have a direct influence on the work of an artist, says Janet. "As painting is so much an expression of the self and because one's state of mind determines how one interprets what one sees, turmoil, loneliness, togetherness, the whole gamut of emotions, must show."

Although Janet has tried her hand at watercolours, she is not keen on a medium which she finds restricting.

She does, however, enjoy sculpting immensely, though it can be "messy". Tiny as she is, she also finds it a practical



PETITE Janet Ah Kun, first girl to achieve the National Diploma in Fine Art at the PE Technikon, with one of the large oil paintings from the collection she exhibited as part of the practical work for the diploma.

problem to move these heavy objets d'art.

Photography, which Janet took up in her final year when she had to photograph her own work and that of Dorothy Kay, has definitely had a constructive influence on her work, she says.

Her paintings grow over a period of time, evolving from a series of small oil sketches until the composition and mood is what she wants to capture on canvas.

"Referring to a photograph taken on the spot helps recapture the mood of the moment."

The garage at her parents' home doubles as Janet's studio where she locks herself in, alone but not lonely, surrounded by paints and brushes and with music to suit her mood.

Since the beginning of the year Janet has been working as a display artist for a large store in Port Elizabeth. She finds her work

rewarding and stimulating as window-dressing in itself is a form of art, involving composition, balance and harmony and "lots of creative thought".

Apart from painting and photography, Janet manages to stretch the hours after work to accommodate a time-consuming but very relaxing hobby: she breeds fish.

In the Ah Kun house is an impressive collection of fish tanks housing beautiful examples of a wide variety of fish — from exotic tropical specimens to gold fish. At the annual show of

the Aquarist Society held at the end of last year, Janet, who is also the secretary of the society, won a number of prizes, including three firsts.

Janet cannot see herself as a full-time artist as she needs the stimulation gained from moving among people "and, of course, one has to live."

Some time in the distant future Janet hopes to be a devoted housewife, mother and gardener with enough spare time to fulfil her need for self-expression in painting, sculpting and perhaps pottery.

I wasn't too impressed with this article, where on a few counts I was misquoted and I am far from being petite being 5ft 6 1/2".

JANET AH KUN

April 2nd to 21st

Janet, the first Technikon student to gain the Fifth Year National Technical Diploma in Fine Art, will be holding her first one-man show. You have probably already noticed her large paintings in oils, painted as a student, on various