

He has captured great legends

KESHNI ODAYAN

A LEADING South African Indian artist hopes that one day his work will be as valuable as that of world-renowned artists Van Gogh and Michelangelo.

Collin Sabapathy was the first Indian in the country to be given the title of "curator". He is qualified to host exhibitions, appraise other artists' work, select and restore paintings.

Sabapathy, 41, grew up in Chatsworth but he is now the resident artist at Zimbali Lodge, north of Durban.

He specialised in fine art, painting, drawing and photography at the University of Durban-Westville.

His proudest moment came when he received a standing ovation two weeks ago from South African ministers for his outstanding painting of President Thabo Mbeki.

Over the 22 years of struggling to make it as a black artist in the apartheid era, he has captured with his brush such great legends



COLLIN Sabapathy captured the true essence of President Thabo Mbeki in his painting which hangs at the Union Buildings

Picture: S'BU MFEKA

as Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela along with other celebrities and musicians.

His other passion is teaching art to pupils and tourists. The father of two said he taught other aspiring artists "little secrets"

about art. Sabapathy said his pieces were a blend of Indian, African and Western art

He was inspired to become an artist at the tender age of 7 when he won a Chappies Bubblegum art competition.

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