

# PAINTINGS TALK

## *Muzu Sulemanji*

by Hootoksi Tyabji

Art has always been a part of life, a way in which we can create something tangible out of experiences an expression that satisfies a deep human need. It has spoken to us of the past civilizations, it conjures up a future, and it reflects the minds and hearts of artists who speak to us through canvas, paint and a host of other traditional and creative mediums!

When I was asked to write a piece on art, Muzu Sulemanji came to my mind. I called to ask him for an interview and he replied, " why speak to me? come and see my paintings and let them talk to you " and so I was introduced to Muzu's water colours, oils, sketches, pen and ink drawings, and mixed media in a variety of styles from abstract, realist to impressionistic.

Muzu was born in Zanzibar and grew up in Dar es Salaam. He studied Applied arts at the J J School of art in Mumbai, India, and later did post graduate degree in graphic design in Basel, Switzerland. His love of drawing was fostered from a very young age by his mother who constantly encouraged him to paint and express himself through his art .

Most of Muzu's paintings are inspired by his love of Zanzibar. They evoke a sense of the exotic and transport the viewer into a dream-like state, a world of poetry in stone, brought out by his very clever use of light, shadow and shade . His water colours depicting scenes in and around Dar es Salaam are beautiful in their composition attention to detail; in some, an old cathedral, church of other beautiful buildings is highlighted .

Of his abstract paintings one in particular caught my attention! It was an incredible collage made from tiny bits of newsprint which were glued together to form a visual feast for the eyes!

In addition to his passion for art and paintings, Muzu owns desktop publishing and picture framing buisness. He has participated in several art exhibitions and has held two, one man shows.

In July 1998, Muzu plans another art exhibition in Zanzibar, a city which continues to inspire and beckon him!

