



Mohamed "Mo" Hassan brings a burst of colour to the Open Streets event on Bree Street. PICTURE: BAZ-ART

Public Art Festival draws in community

THE first International Public Art Festival takes place February 10-20 and aims to bring art and art lovers out of the galleries and onto the streets.

One part of the mission of newly set up NPO Baz-Art is to use art to brighten people's lives and the festival goes beyond showcasing existing work to creating new work, making neighbourhoods safer and more beautiful, teaching children to be creative, stimulating new businesses and creating jobs.

During the process of creating, marketing and selling a craft beer, the founders of Baz-Art said their eyes had been opened to the power of art.

Alexandre Tilmans and Sebastian Charrieras decided to throw the combined force of their skills, experience and passion into a project designed to uplift artists while transforming the communities around them and helping South African public art claim its rightful position in the global art world.

The 10-day festival – which will be dedicated to teaching, creating and showcasing public art – will be the launch pad for various long-



fun finder
bianca coleman

bianca.coleman@inl.co.za

term projects. Children will be given art classes, neighbourhoods will be cleaned up and enhanced by large, well-maintained murals, unemployed people will be given training and opportunities and entrepreneurs will be supported

as they set up spin-off businesses such as food stalls or galleries.

The festival, which will be focused on Salt River, is timed to fall between two respected art events, the Cape Town Art Fair and That Art Fair. Patrons and artists from both events will be encouraged to participate in the festival, which will offer art and inspiration a little different from what is on offer at the more traditional art events.

Each contributing artist will be given a space in Salt River to decorate. The murals will beautify the area, add to Salt River's unique character and bring pride to individuals behind the stories and those depicted in them.

Other activities planned for the festival include live painting by street artists, music, tattooing, face painting and street food.

The festival will also be the part of a programme of street tours of the neighbourhood focusing on public art, which local people will be trained to conduct.

● For more information go to www.ipafest.co.za or email info@baz-art.co.za and to participate call Melissa on 079 031 8943.