

## **CITATION: RICHARD ENTHOVEN**

Richard (Dick) Enthoven is a highly distinguished and successful South African entrepreneur and philanthropist. He was instrumental in building iconic South African and international businesses including Hollard Insurance, Auto and General, Nando's, Direct Axis, & Beyond and Spier Wine Estate. His extensive philanthropic impact on the arts in South Africa is particularly notable for its focus on supporting emerging and young South African artists, and building institutions in the arts. At Wits, his legacy has had a profound impact on the Wits Arts Museum where generous catalytic funding over the last 8 years has enabled the development of a more than R30 million endowment, an almost doubled staffing complement and the capacity to catalyse significant additional funding. Enthoven's core personal beliefs around the centrality of the arts and artists to serve as catalysts for societal change has resulted in institutions that deeply value and sustainably include the arts in their operations.

Enthoven's father started a small insurance broking firm called Hollard that Enthoven transformed, with his brother Patrick, into the largest privately owned insurance company in South Africa. Established in 1980, the group includes the Hollard Insurance Company and Hollard Life Insurance and provides short-term and life insurance as well as investment products. The group, employing more than 4000 individuals, today boasts over 100 ventures across the insurance value chain and touches more than 6 million policy holders in 18 countries on four continents.

He later invested in insurance start-up, Auto & General and remains a significant shareholder. He invested in Nando's in 1986 when there were only 2 struggling restaurants in Johannesburg. Nando's is now a global food chain which operates over 1 300 stores in more than 20 countries. In 1993, he purchased Spier Wine Farm which has been transformed into an acclaimed biodynamic farm, centre for the visual and performing arts, hotel and conference venue. In 1999 he invested in &Beyond, which is today one of the leading luxury adventure travel businesses in Africa, and has expanded into South East Asia and Latin America.

Dick Enthoven's business philosophy was to find and support strong entrepreneurs, take a long term view and only be involved in relationships that were "win-win", never to benefit at someone else's expense.

Enthoven has always held the belief that artists are the pioneers of culture, and that without the arts, society withers. He has embodied this belief in his love of art, his deep personal relationships with many artists and the arts programmes he has initiated and supported. His interest is not in the high profile international artists or investment art, but the emerging artists and performers who interpret, challenge and animate society. He is passionate about quality and excellence, and supporting highly talented emerging artists to grow and build their careers.

The Spier Arts Trust supports the contribution of art to the South African economy through the administration of an ecosystem of career development opportunities for fine

artists. At the heart of the programme has been the Spier Arts Academy, which offered a three-year full time apprenticeship in mosaic and ceramic applied arts. The Creative Block programme provides a fun platform of experimentation with regular income potential to professional fine artists. Since 2004, over 17 500 Creative Blocks from more than 200 artists have been purchased by the Trust. For promising artists, the Trust also supported patron programmes to put these artists on stipends for up to three years to enable them to produce significant and laborious work without the commercial pressure of generating an income.

The Nando's brand is infused with Enthoven's deep belief and commitment to the value of the arts in society. Various programmes have embedded the design and production of furniture and fittings for Nando's stores worldwide in South Africa thereby supporting local business and employment creation. Nando's has also consistently invested extensively in South African art over a sustained period. It is unequivocally the largest buyer of contemporary South African art since 2004, which has resulted in the world's largest publicly displayed collection of contemporary Southern African art (over 24 000 pieces). These works are displayed in the 1 300 outlets across the world bringing world-wide visibility to South African creativity and supporting early and mid-career South African artists.

Evidence of additional large-scale support for South African artists is visible in the extensive collections of post-apartheid contemporary South African art (8 500 items of which 3 600 are on display) that are housed at Spier and Villa Arcadia, and other buildings, on the Hollard campus in Johannesburg. Dick's vision is to create a collection defined by quality and uniqueness, telling the story of contemporary South African culture.

Enthoven's passion for the arts extended equally to the performing arts. The annual Spier Performance Arts Festival that lasted more than a decade was designed to deliver innovation and excellence in the performing arts; to showcase, promote and develop emerging South African artists; to provide opportunities for collaboration with Pan-African artists; and to build new audiences for performance art forms. Enthoven also helped establish and support the Dimpho Di Kopane performance art company, who did performances all over the world. They achieved world recognition when they won the prestigious Golden Bear award at the Berlin Film festival in 2005 for "uCarmen eKhayelitsha", the Carmen opera set in Khayelitsha and sung in Xhosa.

Enthoven also provided the funding for William Kentridge's ground-breaking film animations, *9 films* (2004) which contributed to the artist's considerable international artistic status. Enthoven's support for the major exhibition of South African contemporary art, *Personal Affects* (2004), at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York, was to expose the sophistication and power of the arts in South Africa and build the country's brand in the minds of leaders of the world's economy and polity. Support for 1:54, the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas, has taken the form of a platform to enable emerging African artists to be exposed to the major international galleries, museums and collectors. The recent partnership around the development of Victoria Yards, an integrated urban development in Johannesburg, where a community of creatives can produce and sell work is yet another example.

Enthoven has also supported the building of new arts institutions. In addition to the aforementioned support of WAM, he has supported the establishment of the Johannesburg Contemporary Art Foundation, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to play a role in globalising contemporary South African art, and to act as a catalyst in the imagining of a new contemporary African art institution in Johannesburg. Enthoven's passion for architectural heritage resulted in the restoration of one of Johannesburg's important heritage sites, Villa Arcadia.

Amongst other endeavours that seek to create sustainable change, Yellowwoods (the family holding company) also supports the Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator (which they initiated) to help transition economically marginalised young people into the economy, the Smartstart Early Childhood Development (ECD) social franchise initiative to create universal access to ECD for 4 and 5 year olds, PILO to improve educational outcomes in public schooling and a host of think tanks and social justice organisations, including Mapungupwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA), the Institute of Economic Justice, the Social Justice Initiative (SJI), the Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) and the African Leadership Initiative.

A favourite quote of him is: "The gratification of wealth is not found in mere possession or in lavish expenditure, but in its wise application." (Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, 16th century Spanish author of Don Quixote).

The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg is proud to honour Richard Endhoven's contributions to business and art in South Africa and to bestow a Doctor of Commerce degree Honoris Causa on him.