

Fernand Francis Haenggi started his art involvement in South Africa in 1961, by becoming a partner and founding director of Gallery 101 in Rand Centre, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg. The gallery soon expanded horizontally and vertically by adding more exhibition space as well as space for administration and storage.

With the changing pattern of economy, the gallery had to open branches in the Northern suburbs, (Hyde Park Corner) as well as nearer to the Stock Exchange, that was in the heart of the financial centre. This was in 1970.

However good things did not last and, fundamental differences in policy as well as economic difficulties, made it necessary for the Gallery 101 group of three branches and over twenty staff, to be broken up.

Thus the gallery in Hyde Park was taken over by F. F Haenggi on his own account in August 1972 and renamed it Gallery 21; the Hollard Street Gallery was then taken over by Mme F.M.L Haenggi, Fernand's mother, and renamed "Madame Haenggi's Gallery". The Rand Central Branch carried on as Gallery 101 under remaining management until approximately 1974. The Hollard Street Gallery closed its doors in 1977. Meantime Gallery 21, Hyde Park, concentrated on contemporary South African and International Art. In 1971 Gallery 21 opened a branch in the centre of London (closed for economic reasons in 1976) and had a stand at the International Art Dealers Fair in Basel, Switzerland. It published a book on Armando Baldinelli as well as numerous graphics by South African artists under the seal of "Editions 21".

Unfortunately economic problems again forced a change in strategy. Gallery 21 in Hyde Park closed its doors in November 1976. But the spirit was not broken. Early in 1977, art dealing was resumed on the second floor of 88 Fox Street, in an old building in Johannesburg's financial centre as Gallery 21.

It was heavy going to build up business again; yet another blow was to come. The building was sold and Gallery 21 had to move across the road and has been in Victory House, 3rd floor, 34 Harrison Street since 1984. The success of this gallery was achieved by the continuing effort and loyal support by Mrs. Caroline Haenggi, Steven, the artists and the ever enthusiastic clients.

We at the Rand Afrikaans University pay tribute to the neverending commitments of the Haenggi family to the promotion of the Arts.