



Xavier Claesse shows members of the media and gathered artists his interactive artwork, titled *The King Protea*, which hangs in the presidential suite at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. Made of rosewood, brass and steel, the massive flower opens and closes to reveal the intricate details of the flower's centre. PICTURES: ZANELE ZULU



Robin Opperman, together with Mluleki Madladla and Zimbabwean-born Douglas Chapeta, stand in front of one of two massive murals made of wire and beads, titled *To The Beach*. The artists are members of the Umcebo Trust, which is based at uShaka Marine World in Durban.



Nombuyiselo Malumbezo, from the Keiskamma Art Project in Hamburg in the Eastern Cape, made the long journey to Durban to view three massive football-themed artworks which now hang in the ocean atrium at the stadium. The artworks took four-and-a-half months to complete and are made of photographic images, beads, wire and cloth.



Self-taught artist Joseph Shange, who was beaten at school for drawing rather than doing his homework, shows one of his massive oil paintings, depicting a South African landscape.

Stadium now truly special work of art

COLLEEN DARDAGAN

ARTISTS from KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape gathered at Durban's R3.1 billion Moses Mabhida Stadium yesterday to view their artworks that now adorn the walls of the massive structure.

The head of strategic projects at the eThekweni municipality, Julie-May

Ellingson, said at least 300 local artists had worked on the more than 40 art pieces now hanging at the stadium. "The pieces have made all the difference in the stadium – they have contributed to making it special. The whole idea was to celebrate our local and lesser-known talent," she said.

Art publicist Ila Thompson said the process adopted by the

city to commission the pieces, which cost R3 million, was laudable. "I know they adopted a vigorous process to make sure Durban artists were involved. There were also a number of workshops and discussions which ensured the process was inclusive. I really do applaud the process," she said.

Carol Brown, the former director of the Durban Art

Gallery, was tasked by the city more than a year ago to find the artists and commission the works.

"Artists always complain that they are not considered or included in projects. But I must commend both Julie-May Ellingson and Sue Bannister, her deputy, for the way in which they approached this process," said Brown. "There were

glitches, for example getting artists to finish their works on time and persuading the architects to allow us to drill holes into the walls of the stadium, but each and every issue was treated with understanding and empathy. I have been involved with art all my life and I have to say this was the most exciting project I have ever worked on."