



Apartheid Archive Project
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Art and Apartheid

John Kani

Art has a central role to play within any changing society. This was noticeably evident in South Africa throughout the era of Apartheid. During this period, South African artists struggled to negotiate their creativity with the wider social and political aspects characteristic of Apartheid. This was specifically with regards to artists' creativity being interpreted as instances of political or social commentaries and the potential dangerous consequences those interpretations may involve. Questions arose as to whether art could ever be produced solely for art sake and whether artists would ever be able to express their creativity outside of the confines of the wider political milieu. In exploring these questions I will use my own trying experience as an artist working within the margins of Apartheid South Africa. In doing so, I will depict how repressive regimes directly impact the creativity of artists.