

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CHINESE PRINTS AT GALLERY 20.20**

**Pretoria, 16 January 2012.** The Voortrekker Monument is proud to present an exhibition of Selected Chinese Prints of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, 1900 – 1999, in association with the Chinese Embassy and SANAVA (South African National Association for the Visual Arts), and a donation by the Lotto fund, in Gallery 20.20. The exhibition will be part of the Chinese New Year celebrations and will be opened by the Board (Cultural) of the Chinese Embassy, Mr Yin Yali, on 26 January 2012 at 18:30.

The history of Chinese wood block printing can be dated back two thousand years. It was widely in use during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), fully developed during the Song (960-1207) and the Yuan Dynasties and reached its zenith during the Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644).

This type of art form went into a gradual decline during the Quing Dynasty (1644-1911) when other techniques such as lithography reached China.

New forms of wood block printing in China – a movement lead by Lu Zun in 1931 – was the turning point in the history of Chinese printing. It differed in technique, artistic ideals and social implications. It was now connected to the Chinese freedom actions and the lives of the people.

The art of printing bloomed after 1976, especially because of the nation's reforms and open policies. A huge amount of different techniques such as lithography, copper plating, silk screening and other mediums were used. This type of art form was acclaimed by the rest of the world.

The prints used in the exhibition have been carefully selected from thousands of Chinese prints that have been produced during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The extent of the exhibition is unrivalled in the history of the People's Republic of China.

The Gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 15:30. Entrance to the exhibition is free but normal entrance fees are applicable at the gate. Enquiries regarding the exhibition may be directed to Anton Loubser, vice president of SANAVA, tell/fax 012 460 5826

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