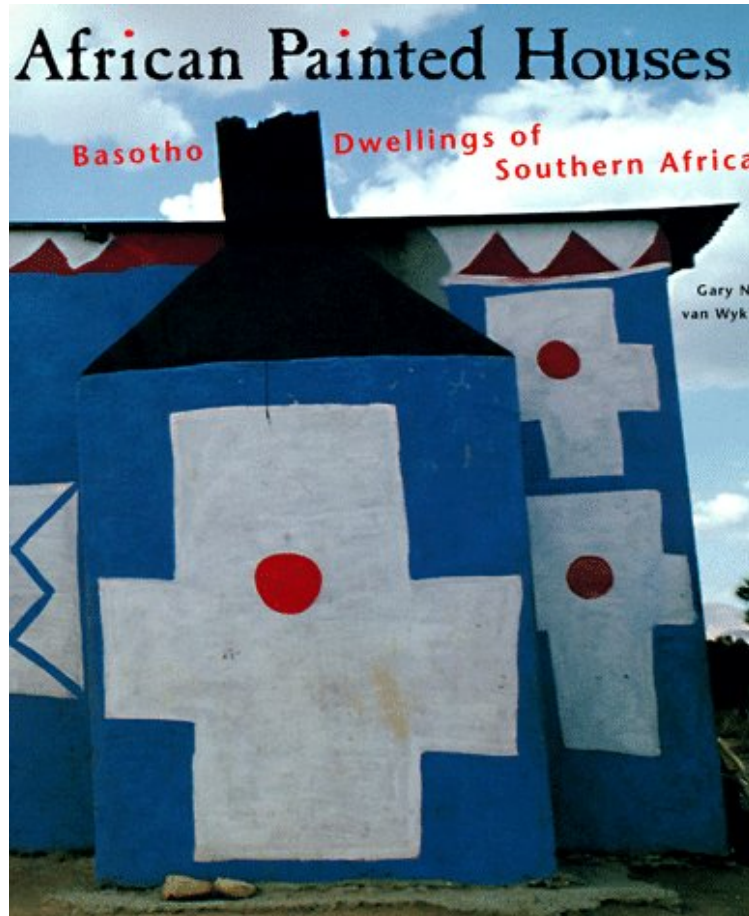


[Free and download] African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of Southern Africa

## African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of Southern Africa

Gary N. Van Wyk

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**Gary N. Van Wyk : African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of Southern Africa** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised African Painted Houses: Basotho Dwellings of Southern Africa:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. WOW - great book!!! Wonderful art, beautiful color pics By Oddzilla This is really a wonderful book! I bought it because it looked like it had nice color pictures, and it turned out they're fantastic! I'm an artist and I just LOVE these beautiful painted houses. It also looks like it has a lot of good information in the narrative, but so far all I've done is look at the great color pics. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Breathtaking By David H. Copp Basotho (a region of South Africa) painted houses are like nothing else on earth. Simple designs, strong colors. The book is beautifully printed. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Women's art as a political message By Sue African Painted Houses is filled with not only beautiful photographs of dwellings, but reminds us of a time not too far ago where South Africa was filled with distress, social and political upheaval, and when women were meant to be at home. Women are still told to stay at home, and these African women took it upon themselves to go against the social status quo and speak their minds in

an amazing artistic manner. African Painted Houses will enlighten you to the true nature of the protest against the Apartheid. When the African men were out fighting for independence and when the African men were prisoned and not home, who maintained the house? who maintained the continuing fight against the Apartheid...it was women. African painted Houses is an easy read and will fill your minds from a world that is so far from ours but the messages are so close to the heart. Women have voices and in this book, women's voices are projected into a beautiful masterpieces.

This New York Times award-winning book explores the mural paintings that Basotho women apply to their homes. It includes more than 100 color photographs by the author, which constituted an acclaimed exhibition presented in New York, Paris, and other venues. The text explains the cultural and historical context of Basotho murals, including chapters on male and female initiation that show how body arts are linked to house decoration. Basotho architecture and murals are imbued with fertility symbolism that links women, the earth, and plant forms. The mandala-like geometric patterns are prayers in paint, addressed to the ancestors and appealing for rain. When the renewing rain comes, it washes away the murals designs, which are replaced or rejuvenated the following year. The art form is part of the cycle of life. The patterns captured in the photographs have inspired mural designs throughout America, in public projects ranging from Times Square to Arizona. The book is based on the author's dissertation and draws on several years' fieldwork in the Free State of South Africa and in Lesotho, for which he received a Rockefeller Award.

.com Prayer and protest come in many guises. The Basotho women of South Africa and Lesotho pray to their ancestors for rain, abundance, and peace by painting and slicing brilliant geometric murals on the mud plaster walls of their houses. "If the prayers are successful," says photographer and author Gary N. van Wyk, "the rains arrive and wash away the paintings." Growing up white under apartheid, van Wyk noticed these vivid houses while traveling with his family through the Highveld below Johannesburg where many Basotho lived and worked on white-owned farms. In the years when links to the outlawed African National Congress party were often severely punished, some Basotho women defiantly splashed their homes with the black, green, and gold colors of the ANC. Van Wyk joined in such protests as an art student by helping paint street murals of state-sanctioned violence. A passion for recording political graffiti led him back to the dwellings decorated in ANC colors, several of which he photographed for this dazzling testament to Basotho lives, ceremonies, history, and art. --Francesca Coltrera In these vibrant patterns, at once contemporary and timeless, Western eyes will find reflections of the painted architecture of the German Expressionists, as well as the art of Klee, Matisse and Malevich. -- The New York Times Book , Martin Filler About the Author Gary van Wyk was born in Zimbabwe and completed graduate degrees in law, fine arts, and art history in South Africa. A leading figure in the anti-apartheid Resistance Art Movement, he was exiled in 1986. He completed his Ph.D. in Art History at Columbia University, NY, as a Fulbright Scholar, and received a Rockefeller Award for his research in Africa. He has published and edited more than fifty articles and books related to African art and culture, most recently Shanga: Art of Tanzania, which the New York Times described as "stupendous." His African Painted Houses (Abrams) was a New York Times Book top architectural book for 1998, and Apartheid: Calibrations of Color (Rosen) received a Notable Book Award from the African Studies Association. He edited the 56-volume series Heritage Library of African Peoples (Rosen) for young adult readers, and was commissioning editor of the 12-volume African Civilizations series (Franklin-Watts, 1998-99). He has curated several critically acclaimed exhibitions in South Africa and the United States, and "made New York history by integrating African art, old and new--into the fabric of the contemporary Chelsea gallery scene" (NY Times, May 22, 2006). His most recent book is Jzsef Jakovits: Surrealist, Primitivist, Kabbalist (2014).