

*Gallery*

**IOI**

*Johannesburg*

***Giovanni Buffa***



*Giovanni BUFFA was born in Biella, Italy  
He studied at the Artistic Lyceum and at the  
Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna under  
Maestro Giorgio MORANDI and Maestro  
Virgilio GUIDI*

*From 1955 he has taken part in the most important  
National Painting Exhibitions*

*He was sent to the 3rd Biennale of Italian Graphics  
in Venice and he took part in Italian Exhibitions  
abroad, including Poland, Austria and Somaliland*

*He won the prize for the Province of Bari  
and many others*

*His works have been purchased by leading  
private and public collectors*

*This is his first one-man show in South Africa,  
having arrived here early 1966*

**IOI**

*Gallery*

*Invites you to an  
Exhibition  
of paintings by  
GIOVANNI BUFFA  
to be opened at  
5.45 p.m. Monday  
July 18 1966*

*Nooi u uit na 'n  
Uitstalling van  
skilderye deur  
GIOVANNI BUFFA  
wat geopen  
sal word  
5.45 n.m. Maandag  
18 Julie 1966*

*Rand Central  
165 Jeppe Street  
Johannesburg*

## THE WORLD OF GIOVANNI BUFFA

*Buffa comes from Bologna in Italy, a city famous for its ancient university,  
a city which has known things of the mind and of the body, war and strife,  
and the birth of ideas*

*His teacher was the late Giorgio Morandi, whose canvasses are peopled by the  
strange shapes of bottles. Strange presences indeed, imbued in some subtle  
way with the hopes and aspirations, sadness and sufferings of the human race*

*But we look in vain for the usual trivial objects, instead we find a smokey-  
grey atmosphere, a generative space which is neither of this earth, nor of any  
other world. This is the space which the human spirit must occupy, tied as it is  
to its animal past, yet striving ever upwards*

*Into this space comes Buffa the artist, sentient and creative, darkening the  
mists with swirling shadows, illuminating them with fiery sparks, tearing them  
aside with frenzied gestures — now a cry of agony, now a blue-grey sigh*

*Here we sense the presence of the artist himself, and through him, of all  
humanity*

*He is a figure denuded of substance and form, stripped down to the barest  
nerve-endings. Yet, this is his means of communication. If the language is  
indecipherable, if the moment is fugitive, yet there may be a message*

*We may be disturbed by the painting, but we become participants in the  
maelstrom, aware of things felt rather than seen. We are not spectators,  
but protagonists in the ancient battle of man against himself,  
man against matter and man against fate*

*Then, above and beyond the turbulence we become aware of yet another  
space, more serene, known but not known, sought, but not yet found*

*I think that this is what Buffa means when he says: "The road to heaven  
passes through the gates of hell"*

R. Philip

JOHANNESBURG SCHOOL OF ART