

CRAFTY ARTWORK TO INTRIGUE PEDESTRIANS

A bold statement about city's women

STAFF WRITER

IN ABOUT 12 months Capetonians and visitors will be able to read a new "constructed history" in the paving where Shortmarket Street crosses St George's Mall.

Katherine Bull and Fritha Langerman are the winners of the Third Cape Town Public Sculpture Competition and their selected work makes a strong statement for and about women in the city.

Carrying the playful title, *Come to Pass*, the work is a synergy between two gutsy artists who are established arts professionals and should intrigue pedestrians.

Cape Town's newest public artwork will be a crafty, subtle spatial statement in contrast to, and even contradiction of, the obvious masculine bronzes and other figures that traditionally tower above street walkers and square dwellers.

The work will mostly be flat, with some elements bulging slightly (functional speed bumps and "cat's eyes"), while others will be slightly below ground level.

Engraved glass, steel and aluminum discs will be used.

About three metres in diameter, *Come to*

Pass will have a formal geometric layout referring to both compass and clock, marking an intervention in both space and time. It is composed of two sets of six units (discs and bumps in the shape of a cross) in crossed echo) and 24 cat's eyes in a circle.

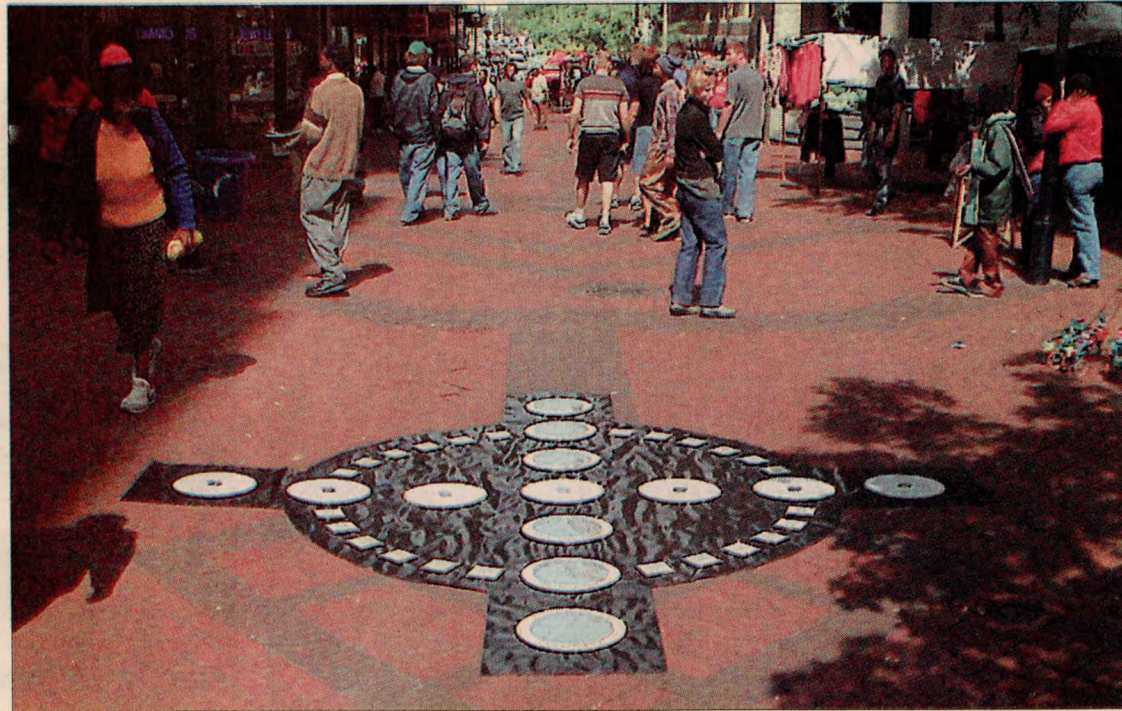
The six units will represent occupations directly linked to the area.

The bumps will be engraved with "a system of archival recording that is incomplete", while the glass discs will be carry dates and names and have "a central composite portrait created from four women".

Bull and Langerman's point-of-departure is the usual one of monument and/or memorial. But because they say Cape Town and "its popular history largely reflects and valorises the exploits of men", they pursue the archive idea as "ironical reference".

R80 000 has been set aside for the execution and installation of the sculpture and the artists will receive R40 000. The judges were Alan Alborough, Rayda Becker, David Brown, Marilyn Martin, Melvyn Minnaar and Zwelethu Mthethwa.

The maquettes of the winners and finalists will be on show at the AVA Gallery until Saturday, October 26.



INTRIGUING: Passers-by take a good look at a mock-up of the winning artwork, *Come to Pass*.