Governor's foreword

The first book using as a title the phrase *the art of central banking* was written by Sir Ralph G Hawtrey and published as far back as 1932. Today, this is one expression that central bankers all over the world remember and frequently use when considering monetary policy decisions in an uncertain economic environment.

In publishing a second artbook on its Collection, the South African Reserve Bank (the Bank) introduces a different meaning to *the art of central banking*. This book provides a glimpse of the extensive Collection of the Bank. The Collection has been put together over many years and bears testimony to the Bank's commitment to the preservation and promotion of the cultural and artistic heritage of South Africa and an investment in the future thereof. Since the purchase of the first artworks for the Bank's Collection in 1954, it has grown into one of the major corporate art collections in South Africa.

Currently the Bank's Collection comprises more than 600 artworks, ranging from paintings and sculptures to tapestries and works on paper, and it remains policy of the Bank to add to the Collection annually. The artists represented in the Collection read like a who's who of established and emerging South African artists, and some of their works are depicted and described in the pages that follow.

The Collection represents the diversity of South African cultures and tastes, hence the description of the Collection as "eclectic". It was a challenge to organise the works around a single theme that constitutes a cohesive story for the purpose of this book.

One special feature of the Collection is its extensive display throughout offices and other public areas in the Bank's buildings around the country, rather than being confined to a museum or a single exhibition area. This allows for full enjoyment of the Collection by Bank staff, but often makes it difficult to entertain requests from interested parties to visit and view the Collection. The book shows the Bank's commitment to sharing the Collection with a much broader community than staff of the Bank alone, and I trust that readers will enjoy sharing it with us.

T T Mboweni
Governor