

# DAILY DISPATCH

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The Oppenheimer Memorial sculpture in Johannesburg — a 1960 work by Herman Wald.

EAST LONDON — The Ann Bryant Art Gallery Advisory Board's decision to refuse a gift of a Herman Wald sculpture has been criticised by several artists and art lovers in the city.

The statue, a large reclining nude, was offered to the gallery by Dr L. Recsei, of Bonnie Doon. The board refused his offer because of the cost of transporting it.

Maureen Quinn, a professional sculptress from Alexandria, said that to quibble about the transport costs of such a piece was ridiculous.

"People just don't realise the value of art these days. Herman Wald was a sculptor of tremendous note. He produced some of South

Africa's best work to date.

"Sculpture is not that difficult to transport and two tons is a relatively small mass. Think of the value of the piece to the people of East London by comparison," Miss Quinn said.

Demetrius Spiro, an artist who also teaches at the Technical College, was also surprised at the refusal to accept the sculpture.

"I haven't seen the

## Artists criticise EL's refusal of gift sculpture

By SALLY FLETCHER

piece in reality but from the newspaper picture it looks a lot better than I'd expected. It is obviously of artistic merit and would be a great pity if the board didn't reconsider their decision.

"Surely the municipality have the practical means for transportation—I mean, what's the problem?" Mr Spiro asked.

The widow of the

sculptor, Mrs Vera Wald, said in Johannesburg that the board was very foolish to decline such an offer.

"To purchase a piece of art these days costs an awful lot of money. If I was selling that piece I would be asking about R20 000 for it — do these people realise the value of the sculpture I wonder?"

Dr Recsei, in the

knew nothing about his association's interest in the sculpture.

Mr Tony Swift, an artist and teacher at Cambridge High School, also expressed surprise at the board's action.

"I haven't seen the sculpture yet but I'm amazed that such an offer should be turned down. I wonder if the museum wouldn't be interested in the piece for their new premises," Mr Swift said.

Dr Erich Bigalke, curator of the East London Museum, said that he hadn't been offered the piece as yet.

"But if transport was a problem for the municipality it would pose an even greater problem for us," he said.