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Ian van Collier: Acclimatization Chamber

**AT THE PRINT CENTER January 19 – March 3, 2001
held in conjunction with Endi Poskovic: *Endiana and other Tales*
and The Printers, Space 1026: *Forearms of Steel***

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, January 19, 2001 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The Print Center

PHILADELPHIA, - Ian van Collier's prints and mixed media objects address the gulf between South African and European thought and the impact of the European colonization on African culture and environment. A European born and raised in South Africa during apartheid, van Collier moved to the United States in 1991 to attend Arizona State University. The experience of leaving South Africa and arriving in the Southwest, where Native Americans also have been displaced from traditional lands, reinforced van Collier's sensitivity to the politics of land ownership.

Van Collier's straightforward imagery serves as a framework for the dichotomy inherent in South African culture and his own experience. "The belief systems of the European culture I grew up in seem as foreign to me as do the traditional African belief systems that surrounded me, yet at the same time there is something familiar about both."

In addition to lithographs and linoleum prints, van Collier will exhibit delicate mixed media objects made from wood, wire and mud. Van Collier breaks down rigid chicken wire patterns into free flowing forms that either hang from the ceiling or from mudbricks attached to the wall. The wire and the mud reference the fences and buildings built by imperialist nations--the demarcation of claimed property. The silver gelatin prints, hung between the wirey objects, illustrate the imposition and exploitation of western culture and the deterioration and erosion of the indigenous societies.

Ian van Collier is currently pursuing his MFA at the University of New Mexico. He has participated in numerous exhibitions in the US and South Africa. Since 1995 he has worked as a photogravure printer at Segura Publishing Company in Tempe, AZ. His work is housed in the permanent collections of the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the New York Public Library, among other prestigious international collections.

Founded in 1915, as The Print Club, The Print Center's mission is to support printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and to encourage the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center holds approximately 11 exhibitions annually, mentoring opportunities for artists, and original artwork for sale in the Print Center Gallery Store. Membership numbers over 1,500.

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