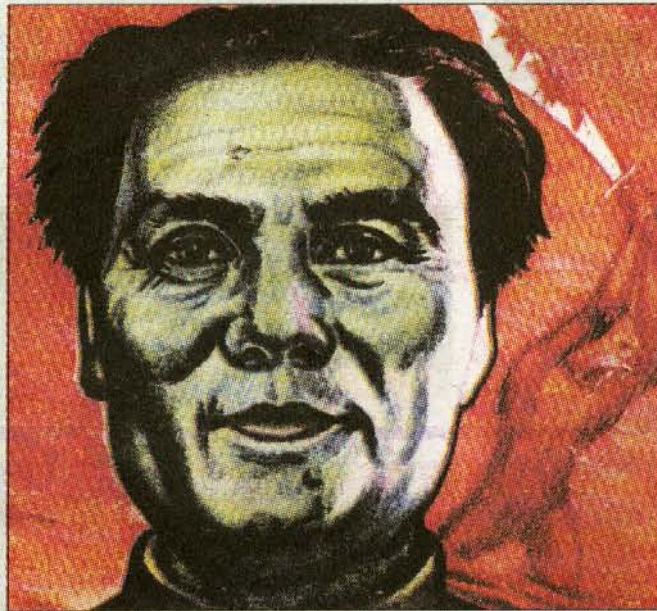


## LISTINGS



### Squirrel artist

**G**iven his fondness for collecting things, **Siemon Allen** has always been a bit of a squirrel. Many years ago (long before wandering off to the United States), Allen — a founder of influential late-Nineties Durban art movement Flat International — exhibited an enclosed wooden shelf unit containing 50 of his favourite CDs, which he had priced at something modest like R20 000.

“That’s because I don’t want anyone to buy it,” he explained of the work that actually only contained the CD boxes as he couldn’t bear the thought of parting with the discs.

Allen, now living in the US, hasn’t lost his love of collecting: one of his celebrated Stateside

exhibitions was a massive collection of South African postage stamps. Now he is back in his hometown with a brand new exhibition entitled *Cards*, which, unsurprisingly, is a collection project. In this case, one consisting of more than 2 000 US military trading cards issued between 1938 and 2001.

These trading cards were not official military propaganda, but rather distributed and sold through private companies and marketed primarily to children. They illustrate the larger cultural consumption of images of war and aggression in the US in a process spanning many decades. — *Alex Sudheim*

*At the KZNSA Gallery.  
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