

War stories

By Hancu Louw
Cue student reporter

Sepia photographs of young soldiers in Namibia line the wall at Guy Thesen's exhibition, *Contact*.

A comprehensive collection of photographs, propaganda material, correspondence and official documents depict Thesen's experiences as a second-lieutenant in the South African Defence Force during the Border War in the 1980s.

A photograph of a dusty plain with a lonely palm tree is captioned by an excerpt from his diary, "This place is pass kulk."

Says Thesen: "It was a very confusing time for me, so I took a lot of pictures and (did) drawings to try and reflect my sanity while surrounded by the apartheid propaganda machine in a foreign land."

His exhibition forms part of the diverse programme of events facilitated by The Legacies of Apartheid Wars Project, focused on the Border War. The programme's aim is to respond to the silences around the Border War and the effects it had on South African society.

Contact,
Carinus Annex,
Dankin Street,
daily 9am to 5pm



Guy Thesen poses next to the work in his *Contact* exhibition in Carinus Annex. The art includes his wooden statues and a visual narrative of his experience as a young man in the South African army. Photo: Cue/Alexa Sedgwick