

Artist Ernst de Jong dies

Well-known Pretoria artist Ernst de Jong died on Wednesday after short illness.

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Artist Ernst de Jong died at 81. PHOTO: Facebook

Pretoria artist Ernst de Jong has died, his daughter Tamara de Jong confirmed on social media.

The 81-year-old was the artist behind the sketches of the animals on the South African banknotes.

During his career he held more than 50 solo exhibitions and was the founder of the Ernst de Jong academy of fine arts in Pretoria.

De Jong also offered design and painting classes at various universities in South Africa, Norway and New York.

"It is with great sadness to let you all know that my incredible dad, Ernst de Jong, passed away today (Wednesday) after a short illness. I loved him with all my heart and couldn't be more proud of him," his daughter wrote.

Art lovers, students and family members expressed sadness for the artist's loss.

"I'm speechless and absolutely heartbroken. The art world truly lost a walking legend. Ernst was a mentor to so many including me and an amazing man who lived life to the absolute fullest," said artist Jeannie Bogue.

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