Sachs hits out at UCT protests

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FORMER Constitutional Court judge and struggle veteran Albie Sachs says “thoughtless” UCT students who burned paintings “trampled on his ancestors”.

Speaking at Stellenbosch University yesterday, Sachs said he was “distressed” when he learnt that a portrait of Molly Blackburn, who was part of the anti-apartheid Black Sash movement, had been destroyed with a number of other paintings in #RhodesMustFall protests.

“(Keresemose Richard) Baholo, the first African to graduate with a master’s in art, his work is there and his work has been destroyed. There’s something thoughtless about that,” Sachs said in a public conversation with a former leader of the #FeesMustFall movement at Stellenbosch, Faith Pienaar.

“Our struggle — and we used to speak about our revolution — was very thoughtful, ideas mattered, choices mattered, decisions were made. You didn’t just go out and do something.

“(Blackburn’s) name might mean nothing to you ... but she was on our side. She is my ancestor. You’re trampling on my ancestors. You’re destroying the kinds of things that you want in the society that you’re aiming to achieve.”

Some students felt Sachs’s view of art was too narrow. “It missed the fact that outside right now there’s the EFF protesting for the ‘Stellenbosch seven’ and on the other side you have AfriForum on the Rooiplein. As a drama student this is art in process,” said drama student Sami Maseko.