TWO artists started this year on a sad note when thieves broke into their studio in Nairobi and stole 12 valuable paintings.

The victims, Mr Rigii wa Karanja and Mr Gatimu Mama, told The Standard that their studio was broken into by unknown thugs at dawn yesterday.

Saying that the paintings were due to be exhibited at the Goethe Institut in Nairobi from January 8 to 22, this year.

The paintings were based on "The Road to Freedom" in Kenya since 1895 to the present.

"We shall discuss the situation about the theft to our sponsors — Goethe Institut", they said, adding that they still had many more paintings.

"The exhibition will definitely go on", they said.

The disappointed artists said that their works were related to Kenyan culture and history, and were due for exhibition in the United States of America and Europe.

Blow

"We fear that someone who stole the paintings may attempt to export them and this will be a major blow to our beloved country", they said.

They noted that they did the paintings in honour of Kenya and urged anyone who may have come across them to return them to any police station or The Standard offices.

"If the works are recovered we shall give a prize to the good Samaritan", they said, and gave the contact phone number as 802401 or 803466 Nairobi.