

# MACALA

## BIRTH

Benjamin Mzimkulu Macala, born in Bloemfontein in 1938.

## ART BEGINNINGS

As a young boy he had to tend the cattle on a farm in the Free State and he passed the time trying to express himself by drawing on the rocks with stones.

## ART STUDIES

His art is largely self-taught.

1965 – 1966

Painted outdoor life with Ephraim Ngatane who helped to guide him.

1967 Studied for a few months under Cecil Skotnes at Jubilee Centre.

1968 Was a pupil of Bill Ainslie's for a short time.

## ART CAREER

1967 Became a full-time artist.

## EXHIBITIONS

1967 First one-man exhibition of sculpture in Lidchi Gallery, Johannesburg.

1969 Second one-man exhibition of sculpture and conté drawings in Lidchi Gallery.

1970 – 1979

Exhibited several times in group shows in the Free State, Cape Town and Johannesburg and also in America and Germany.

1980 Was the main artist in a group exhibition in Greece.

1981 March, latest group exhibition was in New York.

## PRESENT

He is living in Soweto with his wife and ten children and is preparing works for wherever the next exhibition will be. He is also returning to sculpture after a break of many years.

## MEDIUMS

Pastel, charcoal, and recently oils on paper, terra-cotta and bronze.

"I am deeply moved by the reproductions I have seen of the sculpture of Michelangelo and Rodin and the drawings of Leonardo. But I only look at art books occasionally because I become too excited by what I see".

Ben Macala.

"Macala has a beautiful tenderness in his pieces, almost invariably dealing with the human figure and treated with sympathy and dignity".

David Day "Artlook".