



*This is typical of the eye-catching and often visionary power of the work of the young Xhosa artist Dumile, seen here with his drawing "The Prisoner." Dumile, who has received no formal art training whatever, was discovered by Gallery 101 in Johannesburg about a year ago; it plans to give him his first exhibition soon. In addition to his drawings, this young artist has also revealed a powerful talent for modelling: a group of his terra-cottas is also to be shown. Dumile's appearance is a welcome addition to the restricted ranks of African artists in this country.*

## *Xhosa is new name in art*

**I**N spite of the potential, even purely in terms of population, South Africa has never made much headway in developing a purely African school of artists.

The reasons behind the lack are probably complicated, but those who have made an impact have gained substantial reputations; one has only to think of Kumalo, Sithole and Maqhubela and, to a lesser extent, Ben Arnold, Ezrom Legae, Motjuoadi and Ngatane.

Now there is a new name in this limited firmament; it is a complicated enough one, but it may very likely bear watching: Mslaba Zwelidumile Nxgaji, a 22-year-old Xhosa who signs his work "Dumile."

### **IMPACT**

Dumile is being sponsored by Gallery 101, which first discovered his talent as a sculptor and draughtsman about a year ago. It is planning an exhibition for him soon.

Although it will probably not prove the fare to suit Johannesburg's mostly unadventurous art palate, this show is almost certainly going to have a big impact.

Dumile, a completely untaught artist, is the first African to emerge who captures—with a visionary touch—the essential sadness underlying the life of his people.