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'NOT BAD' — THAT'S A GOOD ONE!

Staff Reporter

SURPRISED and gratified at his reception in Durban, a young African artist returns to Johannesburg tomorrow to prepare for fresh conquests.

In his three-week exhibition at Durban Art Gallery, Mslaba Zwelidumile Mxgasi set a near record by selling more than half his pictures to the notoriously apathetic Durban public.

The patronising attitude of some Whites — typified by one man's comment: "Not bad for a Native" — has done nothing to dampen his spirits.

"There are always people like that," Mr. Mxgasi told me. "Most people said that they found the exhibition exciting, stimulating and fresh."

MILESTONE

Now he goes home to prepare for the most important milestone in his career to date — an exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery in London. —

To exhibit at the Grosvenor is for contemporary painters probably a greater honour than exhibiting at the Royal Academy.

Yet so impressed are the directors of the gallery with this young rising star that they will pay his travelling expenses.

Mr. Mxgasi has also been invited to exhibit in Belgium and the United States.

FOOTNOTE: Because of the way in which he was received in Durban Mr. Mxgasi is working on a large piece of sculpture which he intends to present to Durban Art Gallery. "It belongs in Durban," is his simple comment.