

TOP ARTISTS FLOCK TO SHAKE HIS HAND

SELF-TAUGHT African surrealist Dumile this week took a giant step forward when his third one-man exhibition opened at Johannesburg's Gallery 101.

Less than a year ago, when he exhibited at the Durban Art Gallery, he was hailed as "the brightest rising star in the entire South African world of art."

He is now established as one of the greatest artists this country has produced.

Only a few days ago Dumile heard that five of his drawings had been selected for the South African exhibit at the Sao Paulo Biennale — a massive achievement.

IMPORTANT

But perhaps more important is his recognition by other top names in the art world, who flocked to Gallery 101 on Monday to shake his hand and spend a few minutes or a few hours absorbing the message of his giant works.

A year in the limelight has done much more than make

Dumile a national and international name. It has brought new strength to formerly incredibly powerful work.

It has brought a new clarity of vision — a domination of his technique — and above all an immense control of his medium.

There is a new maturity, which shows itself for the first time in a moulding of light and shade and a bold linear precision.

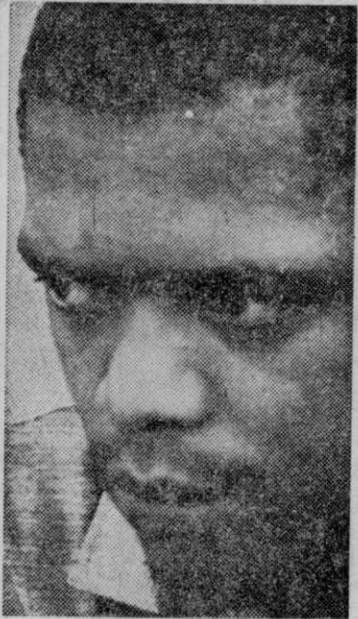
Yet these things are unimportant to the artist. They are mere products of a rigid discipline of work.

"I don't want to be the greatest artist in the country, or the greatest sculptor," Dumile says. "But I want to be able to say the things that are in my heart and in my mind."

Six months ago Dumile was invited to exhibit in London and Brussels. At that time he confessed to me fears for the impact of a new environment on his work.

Now undoubtedly, he is ready as a mature and established artist to face the world on his own terms.

Like so many others who have sprung from the melting pot of the African locations,



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Mslaba Zwelidumile Mxgaji (Dumile) is making a tremendous contribution towards the shaping of a new South African image and culture. He has much to teach the world. **R.A.C.**