

# Dumile

It was in ARTLOOK's maiden issue, back in November last year, that the statement was made: '... Mslaba Zwelidumile Mxgasi - better known as simply Dumile - has become the fastest-rising name on the South African art scene'.

He is still on the ascendant.

He holds a one-man show - his third - in Gallery 101 from June 12, when he will be showing his latest drawings and sculptures.

This astonishing young man, of whose work South Africans - and buyers abroad - can't seem to get enough, has added several further laurels to his record since that article appeared. In addition to those of the National Gallery and Durban Art Gallery, he is now represented in the collection of the Pretoria Art Museum; he is now in private collections in the USA, England, Belgium, Israel and South Africa; and he has just been selected to take part in this year's Sao Paulo Biennale. Yet Dumile is completely untrained as an artist and has had practically no academic education. And in his life of between 23 and 26 years (he himself does not know how old he is) he has lived the hazardous trials of an orphan in the townships of Johannesburg.

His attention has of late turned increasingly to sculpture, which many admirers of his work find not as satisfying as his drawings with their wonderful vigour and strange, often powerful, poetry.



*A drawing by Dumile, 'Hear No Evil, Speak No Evil, See No Evil,' (13 1/4 in x 7 1/2 in), executed when he was in Durban last year. It is in a private collection in Johannesburg.*

**Eachus King**