

KUMALO Sydney

1. Kumalo was born in Johannesburg in 1935 and was educated at Madibane High. He was therefore a product of the city. He received his basic training at the Polly Street Centre, and was helped and encouraged by Cecil Skotnes and Eduardo Villa. He is married and has three children.

Cartoon: Kumalo receiving instruction from Skotnes or Villa

Unfortunately I don't know what either looks like.

2. When Skotnes resigned, Kumalo took over the senior position at the Polly Street Centre for four years. Then he decided to give his whole time to his creative work. Lola Watter in her assessment of his work, says his success is due to his capacity to fuse two styles, that of African traditional sculpture and that of the Expressionists.

Cartoon: Kumalo as instructor at the Polly Street Centre.

3. Kumalo's two main themes are the human figure and the beast. Notable works are The Dancer, Praying Woman, Seated Woman. His first one-man exhibition was in 1962, under the aegis of Eyon Guenther. He and Michael Zondi were pioneers, in that they were the first black sculptors to represent South Africa at an international exhibition, the Venice Biennale in 1966. Kumalo has since exhibited in England and in the United States, and his works are in many public and private collections. He has been an important influence on younger African sculptors.

Cartoon: Kumalo at work, on something like Praying Woman.

This is to be seen in Contemporary African Art