



Doc 111/12/13

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Sydney Kumalo

I. Sydney Kumalo and Michael Zondi werethe first African sculptors to represent South Africa formally on an international exhibition in Venice in 1966. Kumalo was born in Johannesburg in 1935 and brought up in an urbanized invironment. He was educated at the Madibane High School. His basic training in art he received at the Polly Street Centre to which he went in 1952. He was guided and greatly encouraged by Cecil Skotnes and Edoardo Villa. In 1960 he was appointed as art instructor at the Polly Street Centre. When Skotnes resigned he took over the senior position which he held for 4 Years until such time as he was able to concentrate full-time on his own art.

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cartoon - Kumalo as instructor at the polly street Centre.

2. Kumalo is married and has 3 children. Watter in her assessment of his ~~work~~ sculpture points out that his work is largely self-explanatory and the impact immediate on the observer. He has sucessfully fused 2 styles, that of tradional African sculpture and the Expressionsit style. He appears to stand at the interstices of 2 cultures. His medium is terra cotta. When the piece is dry he works further on it and after casting intonbronze, the cast is treated with dark patina. Two themes have pre-occupied Kumalo, namely the human figure and the beast. Kumalo held his first one man exhibition under Eyon Guenther's aegis in 1962. His work was represented in the 1966 Venice Bienalle and the 1967 Sao Paulo Bienalle. He exhibited at the Contemporary African Art Exhibition (Camden Arts Centre, London 1969. His sculpture has gained internati nal recognition and has also been exhibited in Italy and the USA. Kumalo has been an important influence on younger African sculptors.

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examples of Kumalo's work in 'Contemporary African Art in South Africa by E.J. de Jager.

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to Madiba