

1.. With Sekoto Pemba is one of the most important of the early painters of art in the modern idiom. He was however little known outside the Eastern Cape. Since the early 1930's he painted determinedly often under the most trying conditions: He was born at Korsten Village Port Elizabeth on 2nd April 1912. The story of his career is remarkable. From childhood Pemba was quiet and sensitive and experienced life intensely. Even as a child he felt an irresistible urge to express his compassion for his fellow man on canvass. He had little formal tuition. In 1931 he was trained at the then University College of Fort Hare for 2 weeks and in 1937 he studied under Professor Wintermore for 5 weeks at Rhodes University Grahamstown. For the rest he was self-taught.

cartoon Pemba at Rhodes or as a boy expressing himself on canvass.

2. He travelled extensively as a young man. He recorded on canvass what he saw and experienced. Life was his master and tutor. A deft hand, outstanding drawing ability and self-confidence emerge from his paintings. Pemba, whose media was water colours and oil, is in the first place a painter of portraits but also paints people in different and varying moods. He never ventures far from the daily life of the African people, both in the township and rural frame of reference. He has a remarkable insight into the moods and feelings of his people. His work has a formal and academic approach. It is sincere, technically sound, good to look at, enriching and undoubtedly of merit. It has been exhibited abroad and in many SA cities and towns.

Suggest 2 paintings from his work Contemporary African Art in South Africa by E J de Jager

eg Dancing Women