

Topic

BY CHRIS HENZE

TWO TALENTED young artists, Ben Arnold and Trevor Stone, who have been gaining popularity in South Africa for their powerful statements in sculpture and painting, joined forces for a two-man show at the USIS auditorium in Johannesburg recently.

Arnold is a 27-year-old sculptor whose growing reputation is based on numerous group and one-man shows and on recent commissions for several bas-reliefs in Johannesburg. His work is characterized by massive, angular forms. Stone is a 20-year-old painter from Capetown, whose works in conti, charcoal and pastels are just now attracting wide attention.

For several years Arnold studied with Cecil Skotnes, founder of South Africa's first art school for Africans in 1951. The young sculptor's work displays a mastery of modern technique combined with easily recognizable local motifs. Having tasted success, he is especially interested in encouraging other young artists and school children who visit his showings. "These young people are the artists of tomorrow," Arnold contends. "I feel that if I can explain to them what I am trying to say in my sculpture, they will grow up with a better understanding of the relevance of art to their daily lives."

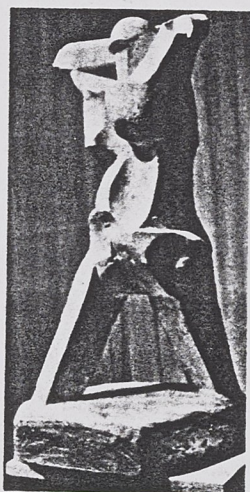
Stone is a self-taught artist who draws his inspirations from the jazz artistry of his friend, the well-known South African musician Dollar Brand. Brand's music, he says, provides the atmosphere which stimulates him to find full expression. "My love for jazz has influenced me greatly," Stone declares. "I can

1968

sit for hours listening to it and all sorts of images enter my mind." The young artist lives in an isolated cottage on the beach near Capetown. Preferring to be alone with nature in its starkest form, his paintings and drawings often depict gaunt, somewhat frightening but deeply moving human figures. They reflect a troubled soul, for Stone is a searching and sensitive critic of society.

The soft-spoken young man says, "I never imagined that I would really gain recognition. Now that I have had my first breaks, I intend working in the country — living with the people, studying them and finally painting them."

The two young artists met shortly before they presented their two-man show. They became close friends and saw similarities and contrasts in their works. Both men hope to travel outside South Africa to study the works of other artists, but they both profess a sense of rich creative stimulation in their own country. □



"Striding Figure" (above) is striking example of the dynamic style of sculptor Ben Arnold, shown at right as he readies another of his works, "Awakening Form," for exhibition.



Trevor Stone studies arrangement of works at Johannesburg exhibit. Above right is his drawing, "Give My Child Some Food or He'll Die;" at left is his painting "The Adulteress; The Adulterer; The Husband."

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