

NGATANE

BIRTH

Ephraim Mojalefa Ngatane, born in Lesotho in 1938.

ART BEGINNINGS

As a child did modelling in clay and drawings on walls of disused buildings.

1942 Came to Johannesburg.

ART STUDIES

1952 – 1954

Studied painting under Cecil Skotness at the Polly Street Art Centre and was the Centre's first professional painter.

1954 – 1956

Pupil of Duncan Hall, an American Missionary in Johannesburg.

ART CAREER

Later taught at Jubilee Centre and privately at his home.

EXHIBITIONS

1960 Work publicly shown for first time on Artists of Fame and Promise, Johannesburg.

1962 First one-man exhibition in Johannesburg.

Held numerous very successful one-man exhibitions in Cape Town, Pretoria and Johannesburg (his second exhibition in Johannesburg was a sell-out).

1965 Exhibited in African Artists group show in Picadilly Gallery, London.

1966 Republican Festival Exhibition, Pretoria.

1969 Last exhibition in Johannesburg which was completely sold out.

PRESENT

1970 Died in March.

He planned to go overseas but first wanted to develop and solidify his own style, and "first and foremost", he said, "I must teach my people to paint".

MEDIUMS

Water-colour, gouache and later oils.

"I am inspired by nature, love of life and dreams".

Ephraim Ngatane.

"Ngatane had achieved agreeable command of the fluid properties of gouache and water-colour. This he wedded to his perceptive drawing of the township scene to achieve an individual and easily recognized style of pictorial reportage which soon attracted public interest".

Esmé Berman.

