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SHOW MAIL

All he wanted to do was draw

JEANNETTE KEILL

IT MUST be disconcerting to have the youngest in a brood of eight suddenly announce at the age of six that all he wants to do is draw pictures.

"My parents just did not

know what I was doing. To them I was not normal, so every day after school I used to come home and draw and draw and draw, but I hid every one of my pictures," says 27-year-old Stanley Nkosi.

Stanley is a Swazi born in Germiston. His father was a night watchman, his mother a housewife busy bringing up four boys and four girls.

The lad went to school until Standard VIII and he had long decided that he was going to become a full-time sculptor. He managed to have a few lessons with Peter Hayden who now lives in Switzerland and a few more with Cecil Skotnes. Otherwise he is entirely self taught. He works in terracotta which is then cast in bronze.

Imagination

In 1970 he had his first exhibition in Johannesburg and a one man show in 1972. "The pieces I exhibited caught the imagination and I sold most of them".

Stanley is leaving for England in April as he was promised an exhibition in London sometime in May. He has prepared 15 works depicting human form and animal figures as well as drawings relating to his sculptures.

"I am so excited, I can't believe I am going. I worked day and night for this in my studio in Natalspruit. It is near a farm and I get my inspiration from the animals that roam around".

Has he changed his style since his early youthful days?

"Quite a lot. I used to think that I had to be complicated in order to be different and now I am simplifying the lines and find they are far more impressive. I also don't like abstraction very much. I like for instance a cat to look like a cat although it should have a modern concept".

When he is not working Stanley visits other artists and exchanges ideas and compares notes. He admires Sit-hole and although he hates comparisons would like his own work to be as powerful as his.

What is his real ambition in life? "To improve and eventually be recognised as a good sculptor. I am not scared of hard work so maybe one day I will achieve this aim".