

## REPORT

LONDON—The works of African artists from South Africa are now adorning homes in Canada, West Germany and — unlikely of all — Iran as a result of the exhibition of their works at Gallery 21 in London. So successful has the show been, in fact, that it is being extended for a week.

What attracted Iranians, West Germans and Canadians, among others, to the work of Maqhubela, Matsoo, Nkosi, Sibiya, and Sithole?

Some, apparently, were intrigued to learn that there was something like South African indigenous art, according to the gallery owner, Mr Fernand Haenggi.

"It is West and East African art that is best known in Europe," he explained. "But for most, the origin was immaterial, they bought the pieces — paintings and sculpture — because they liked the work they saw."

(Curiously, South Africans were not among the buyers. Two possible reasons are advanced for this: they do not realise some of the best pieces of the artists are here — and at the same price they would pay in South Africa — or they have the artists' work in their collections already, and in London venture into new fields.)

Sithole's use of wood captured the imagination of many of the foreign viewers, as did Maqhubela's use of colour. Some recalled his work at the London Art Gallery last year and notice a change in technique — a lighter use of paint.

Similarly, South Africans who visited the exhibition saw development in Dumile's work; a descent from the emotional and dramatic to something more stylised and simplified.

Sithole was the most successful artist from the sales point of view, but Kumalo and Maqhubela sold well too.

"There has been so much interest and so many people have com-

mented on the show, that I have decided to carry it on," said Mr Haenggi.

He is critical of his own timing. "I should have held the exhibition in the European summer months, when the foreign tourists are here in strength — there are few sales to locals. It would have been justified then, too, to spread it over two months."

The next South Africans to be shown here are Zoltan Borberek, the sculptor, and Tadeusz Jaroszynski, the painter. Their work will form part of an important international exhibition featuring illustrious names like Miro, Clave and Tapies.

Dumile may have a one-man show later this year, but in Gallery 21's Johannesburg counterpart, and Mr Haenggi is hoping to stage a joint show by Sithole and Sibiya in Harlem at some future date.

—DIRK DE VILLILERS.