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Florence will be home for Bongani



● BONGANI SHANGE, who goes to Florence next month to study sculpture.

FOR the next year, the ancient and beautiful city of Florence in Italy will be home for Bongani Shange — African artist and sculptor.

Bongani will leave South Africa in August to take up a scholarship from the Italian Government to study sculpture.

For many years he has explored several different mediums — painting and graphics, as well as sculpture.

'It was always difficult for me to choose between these — they're all so exciting,' he said.

'Somehow, though, sculpting has emerged as the one I want to do most of all. I really feel sure now that it's the medium I must work in.'

ART

The boy who never had the opportunity to do art as a subject at high school

in Maritzburg — where he grew up — will now study in the city where artists from all over the world go to see the finest works.

'I want to learn everything that Europe has to offer. As an African, I want my work to be part of the African people.'

Bongani Shange is a searcher. At 29, he has already had several exhibitions of his work.

In November 1976 he exhibited paintings in Durban.

A year ago he had an exhibition in Cape Town, mainly of his graphics.

'I've been finding myself through my work. I enjoy moving around, experiencing as much as I can, to bring life into my work.

'This trip to Europe will be a very fruitful experience to draw from in future,' he said.