



Michael Selekane with one of his paintings. Selekane's star is on the rise as far as art is concerned.

## Social issues inspire artist

**Gavin Emmanuel**

He is soft-spoken and has a smile that lights up the room and once you mention the word art, Michael Selekane's eyes start to light up.

*Rekord* caught up with Selekane at the Ifa Lethu offices in Groenkloof.

"I love the smell of oil on canvass," said Selekane as he ushers *Rekord* into a boardroom at the Ifa Lethu offices which is filled with Selekane's artwork.

Selekane was born in a tiny village in Mpumalanga in 1986 and

his first encounter with art came during his primary school years.

"There was an art class in primary school and I went to that class as a way of dodging other classes, because most of the time nothing was done in that class," said Selekane.

As time went on the class became operational and held an art competition, which he was selected for.

"I had a teacher who spotted the talent in me and supplied me with art materials," added Selekane.

The highlight of his career

came in 2007 after completing matric. Selekane joined Tshwaranang Art School in Mabopane.

"The school exposed me to various forms of visual art and it was then that I realised I had fallen in love with the oil painting medium," said Selekane.

During the same year Selekane won the Ifa Lethu art prize, which cemented his conviction to seek advanced training in art.

Social and political issues inspire most of Selekane's paintings.

Selekane exhibited at Grahamstown Art Festival.