

Cyril Fradan

Back in South Africa for the first time in nearly ten years is Cyril Fradan, the Johannesburg-born painter.

Fradan was educated, and later lectured at the University of the Witwatersrand and held his first one-man show in Johannesburg in 1954. The 37-year-old painter has been living in London since 1960 and has since then successfully exhibited in most British and European art centres. He has just concluded his first back-home show, at Gallery 101 in Johannesburg. On the 23rd of this month he opened at the Wolpe Gallery in Cape Town.

Fradan works exclusively in acrylic paints and makes extensive use of glazing techniques - a form of craftsmanship not often seen today. Furthermore, he is a successful and skilled exponent of the Baroque style used in contemporary, non-figurative terms.

What this means is that Fradan blends illusion, light and colour, and a sense of passionate movement, all calculated to overwhelm the viewer by a direct emotional appeal.

His use of such effects as the dis-

solved contour, the rendering of movement through flickering light, allied with his use of glowing colour, have brought into being a style that has had a profound effect on the South African audiences who have seen it.

Fradan does not title his paintings, believing that the images evoked in

the spectator by the swirling, energetic forms in his canvases are, in fact, the correct ones.

*Each viewer will see in my paintings what he wants to - I don't believe that the artist should interpose with titles, which are often misleading anyway,' he says.

