



**PASSION FOR ART:** DUT student Dale Knudsen stands next to his art wall, a painting of an Octopus inspired by the film *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

PICTURE: BRAD THOMPSON

# Graffiti artist hip hopping to New York

**NKULULEKO NENE**

A DREAM has come true for a Durban University of Technology student who will be jetting off to New York next Friday, after winning the graffiti art category of the 2012 Sprite Uncontainable Hip Hop talent search.

Dane Knudsen, the 25-year-old graphic design Master's student will be mentored for a week by American rapper

Talib Kweli, and will get an opportunity to feature on his music video.

"Kweli and I met during the finals in Johannesburg and we spoke about our interest in art," said Knudsen.

"A trip to New York has always been my dream... The mentorship will teach me a lot as Kweli has become a well-known brand in hip hop and the trip to one of the biggest cities in the world will be an

eye-opener," he said.

"I am passionate about graffiti. It is how I express myself. I love drawing," said Knudsen, a part-time lecturer in drawing.

"People should look at graffiti as a means of expression rather than vandalism," he added.

It has not been an easy road, for Knudsen, who was pitted against a friend in the competition. "In the finals it was difficult painting against my

friend, who later congratulated me after he became a second finalist," Knudsen said.

A graphic design expert at DUT, Professor Ian Sutherland, said the fact that Knudsen is a part-time lecturer indicates his passion for visual art.

"We are proud of him going to New York. He has excelled in his studies and we expect more when he gets back," said Sutherland.

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