

INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

Die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat



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Cultivating children's art

WOMEN for Peace in conjunction with the Everard Read Gallery are once again engaged in the drive to cultivate children's interest in art. *Culture*

The young were invited to submit pieces for the third national art competition, "Save Your Country", which closes today.

The effort was inspired by the perception that a lot of talent in the townships goes to waste because there is no infrastructure to introduce art at an early age.

According to Women for Peace, last year's nationwide competition "revealed that the majority of black children are not given the opportunity to explore the dynamic and fulfilling world of creative production".

It is estimated that, out of 6 000 Department of Education and Training schools, only 600 offer training in the arts.

Judging the competition will be First National Bank art collection custodian Steve Balles; fine artist and former head of the Johannesburg Art Gallery Nel

Erasmus, Thupelo Art Project co-director David Koloane; Everard Read Gallery director Ian Keogan and Johannesburg Art Gallery director Christopher Tili.

Funds raised will go towards promoting art in the townships, where children have no access to art books and libraries. The money will go into providing a portable library, materials and a travelling instructor in art.

Money raised in 1989 was used to organise a workshop for teachers, who used their newly-learned skills to introduce art in their schools.

The project is called "Imball" (flower, in Zulu): "This small flower which is growing and blossoming in the townships through all the turmoil and the violence must not be allowed to die," a Women for Peace spokesperson said.

● For further information contact Women for Peace art competition organiser Yvonne Wilson.

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