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2 "THE JAPAN TIMES 0 SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1988 -

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Anti-apartheid expo touring Japan 2

Art from 34 countries displayed in protest of South African policy '

A mobile exhibition of art

by artists from all over the

world protesting the apart-

heid policy in South Africa

will be held throughout Japan

on a 500-day tour starting in

Okinawa today. . ' ' -

The international art ex-

hibition, called "Apartheid -

Non" with 154 pieces by 81

, artists from 34 countries. will

travel out a 20-ton trailer and

be shown in schools and other

places in all parts of the

country. ' 4 ' '

"I would like children to see

the artworks by international

artists and think about the ra-

cial discrimination expressed

in them." says Fram Kitaga-

wa, head of the project com- 'f

mittee in Japan. .

The exhibition has already

been held in museums in 12 .

countries, starting with Paris

2 in 1983. with the support of

? UNESCO (the United Nations 1

;Educational. Scientific and

i Cultural Organization).

1 However, this .is the first

time a mobile gallery will be

used for the exhibition. with

the exhibits displayed inside at

specially designed trailer.

The art pieces include 101

paintings and 11 sculptures by

Robert Rauschenberg of the

United States and Antoni _

Tapies of Spain. . .

Aboard the trailer there will

be a bright red balloon 11

i meters in diameter. '

The balloon, an artwork it-

self, will glow in the sky at

night with its built-in lighting

system. '

After stopping in eight

places in Okinawa Prefec-

ture, including Naha and Ishi-

gaki Island, the trailer will go

to Hokkaido. at the other end

of the country, and stop at 11

places there. i

The exhibition will then be

i held in other parts of the coun-

try and is expected to open in

THE TRAILER "Julla Pempem," sporting a giant red balloon

on its roof. leaves Tokyo Saturday for Okinawa carrying 101

paintings and 11 sculptures made by artists from 34 countries

In protest of the South African government's apartheid poli-

cies. The trailer exhibit will be on display in 200 cities nation-

wide over the next 500 days. '

Tokyo in December next

year.

The project group in Japan has set up offices in each area to gather supporters, who at present number several thousand. The group will continue to call for support for the project so as to form a joint anti-apartheid movement in Japan. _

Alter Japan. the art exhibition will continue to be held in other countries 01' the world until the day that the apartheid gb'vernment in South Africa is abolished, group members say. On that day, the works of art will be given to a museum in South Africa.

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; THE JAPAN TIMES 0 SUNDAY; NOVEMBER 13, 1981!

Japanese help fight; apartheid

By STEWART WAC11S

KYOTO .- Stepping into the Kyoto conference room, I had smugly figured that only a handful of fringe Japanese radicals would take time out to organize an art event protesting racism in far-away South Africa. After all, Japanese enjoy uhonorary white" status under the laws of apartheid. their country is South Africa's top trading partner, and Japan's anti-apartheid policy is merely cosmetic. What I say surprised me.

Here were scores of business people, educators, artists and working folk gathered to plzm i 1 local showingof the Apart- heid-Non International Art Festival in their city in November _ taking notes, squinting at slides and talking animatedly. .

This particular meeting took place in Kyoto, but supporters around the nation are . also planning their own local presentations of the trpveling 'art exhibit, which has already , reached dozens of towns and thousands of spectators in ' Okinawa, Hokkaido, Niigata, ' and even Sado Islaiid. '

An eloquent collection of more than 150 works of modern art donated by 81 leading artists from 34 countries, Apurtheid-Non is a rich mixture of paintings, sculptures, ohotographs and posters. t ome directly treating it oppression and racism, others alluding to the evil, some lully abstract.

The variety and quality of the art is extraordinary. Americans Robert liausehen- ' berg, Donald Judd. Robert Motherwell. Sol LeWitt, Claes Oldenburg, Roy Lichtenstein , and Jack Youngerman appear alongside ltalylys Alberto Burri, the Franco-American Arman. England's Richard Hamilton, Spainls Antoni Tapics. Chile's Roberto Matta, Mozambique's Valente' Ngwentya Malangatana and Japan's Yussc Tabuchi. Several fine Eastern European and African artists make their Japanese debuts.

The idea of pitting socially conscious art against the anti-humanism of apartheid originated in 1981 when Spanish artistsAntonio Saura founded

World Artists Against Apartheid. The group mounted a major exhibition in Paris in 1983, then formed The Cultural Foundation Against Apartheid with the cooperation of the UNESCO and the U.N. Special Committee Against Apartheid to send them a message.

"Apartheid" 1982. by Valente Ngwentya Malangatana, an "RI-MEMORIE." 1962, by Concelto Pozzati, Italy. Acrylic and collage on canvas. 73 x 104 cm.

through art once people have held this exhibition they tend to continue in political and social activities." The Kyoto committee includes writers Iliroshi Noma and Wahei Tatemutsu and poet Makoto Ooka.

To store and transport the many artworks throughout Japan, a special truck has been built. Its design reduces from a few days to a few hours the time needed in packing; and unpacking the art. making it possible to arrive at a site in the morning and open the exhibition in the same day. While the show is held a huge red balloon rises atop the truck, illuminated from inside, drawing attention to the site. This is a heavy event," says Fram Kitagawa, "but we're trying to produce it in a light spirit."

"In one way," Kitagawa adds, two can say Japanese people don't feel this exhibit reflects on our own society so deeply. Perhaps that's why some people can join the event so easily, almost without thinking. But for one artist from Mozambique. Oil on canvas, 123 x 102 cm.

certs, lectures or related events. Very small villages display only a portion of the collection for lack of space. Aiming to get the show in front of as many school children as possible, national coordinators Ite Maeda in Kyoto and Fram Kitagawa in Tokyo are providing overall guidance. but the project, they explain, is run on a "slap-

tion system," rather than n
pyrmnid 01' authority.
"A chain has developed,"
Mnedn says, "in which the
people from one town pass
along their expertise to those
in the next. Bonds are lor-
mine, and we're finding that
want to make a relationship
between people and this prob-
lem. llm critical of the
ethnocentrism 01 muny'Jiipu-
nese. and I hope that people's
: 'involvement in this kind of
project can help them under-
. . stand more deeply the people
in other countries. Then, too;
we in Japan live with the
myth of one race. But when
Apurtheid-Non was shown in
Hokkaido. many Ainu came to -
see it. 1 hope people will start"
thinking about this."
Apartheid-Non will travel
through Japan for a total of
500 days, closing in Tokyo at -
the end 01 next year. Invita-
_tions are still being accepted
from local groups interested
' in holding the exhibit. The
first bigseity showing is slated .
for Kyuto's Municipal Art .
Museum in Sakyo-ku. opening 1
Tuesday. Nov. 15 and running
through Sunday. Nov. 20. For
information, or to offer help.4
call the Kyoto organizers'
ol'l'ice at. (075) 343-3844 or the
Tokyo oiliee at ((13) 461-3947.
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