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By CLIVE SAWYER QO
Mitchellâ\200\231s Plain BureaGr

ROCKLANDS artist Tyrone Ap-
pollis, who has just returned from
a sponsored overseas tour, says
he has transcended township art
to become â\200\234universalâ\200\235.

Tyrone, 32, spent four weeks in
London, Paris and Amsterdam on
a trip paid for by the British
Council.

â\200\234The trip broadened my vision
and will improve my technique,
but I was not happy far from my
studio,â\200\235 he said.

â\200\234There is much to assimilate
from the trip and now I will start
interpreting my impressions of
Europe.â\200\235

LIFE ON TRAINS

Tyrone is known for depicting
life aboard third-class trains, par-
ticularly those on the Mitchellâ\200\231s
Plain line. Included among his
works now are dynamic sketches
of Londonâ\200\231s tube commuters and
the entrance to Tottenham Court
Station.

People in London are more guarded than the regulars on the Mitchellâ\200\231s Plain line, he said: â\200\234Britainâ\200\231s cold climate suits its people spiritually.â\200\235

Most of his time was spent visiting galleries.

â\200\234I saw the works of Gauguin in Paris, on Joan from Russiaâ\200\231s Pushkin Gallery, Leonardos at

Londonâ\200\231s Hayward Gallery, visited the Tate, the British Museum, and the National Gallery.

â\200\234In Holland I saw paintings by Van Gogh â\200\224 whom I greatly admire â\200\224 but the Louvre in Paris was closed because of a strike.â\200\235

A rare experience was visiting sculptor Henry Mooreâ\200\231s studio, which is closed to the public.

AROUSED INTEREST

Tyroneâ\200\231s work aroused interest of its own and four of his paintings were included in a report of his visit on London Weekend Television news.

African art is as underexposed in Europe as it is in South Africa, he said.

â\200\234I do not rate European art as higher than African â\200\224 one sees anger and pain in their work too, and the wellspring of life common to all artists.â\200\235

He was not tempted to forsake his roots for life overseas. He quotes American poet Walt Whitman: â\200\234The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it.â\200\235

Tyrone is, however, keen to see more original art.

â\200\234I want to study bushman art firsthand, to visit Mexico and to see Europe again.â\200\235

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Travel was an ambivalent experience for him: â\200\234I was terrified on the plane â\200\224 I want to ate

places but want to get there wit
out travelling.â\200\235 a ne

Now he is taking up where he
left off with paintings started be-
fore he went overseas.

â\200\234This has been good, as the trip
has shown me new dimensions.â\200\235

While Tyrone wants to escape
being typecast as a â\200\230train artistâ\200\231,
he is planning a book about third-
class train travel.

DISAPPOINTED

â\200\234I feel I owe such a book to the
community which has given me
so much experience.â\200\235

He was bitterly disappointed
his work was left out of Gavin
Youngeâ\200\231s recent book on township Â©
art: â\200\234Disappointed because no
other artist has tackled this
theme in such depth.â\200\235

Tyrone remains firm though
when asked about where his art
is going. He knows where he is
now.

â\200\234Tm a Renaissance man, a
hungry man spiritually. I am no
longer a township artist but a
universal one and the only thing
that can point my direction is a
deeper honesty and truth.â\200\235

Trip broadens artistâ\200\231s vision | tron

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COMMAUNITY EXPERIENCE: A work by the artist whose inspiration is

his experience of the community in which he lives. Aisles tacgeeorshie

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