

MRB - 0001 - 0003 - 001

# ARTIST TEACHES CHILDREN FREE

ON Saturday mornings paintbrushes are busy in the United States Information Service auditorium. Mr. Robbie Matshaba is allowed to use the premises for an art class of African and Coloured children from nine to 14 years old.

He teaches them without any charge, because he likes to work among children and to share his knowledge.

Recently an exhibition of work was held after the first few months of Mr. Matshaba's classes. Some of the pictures will be chosen for an exhibition of children's art which is to go out from New York on a round-the-world tour next month, and a few may be shown in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Mr. Hall Duncan came from the United States to direct an African art project for the World Council of Christian Education. He advertised for African artists to get in touch with him and one of those who responded was Mr. Matshaba, who was then at work on "curio art."

Through the Africa Art Project, Mr. Matshaba was given a scholarship and studied book illustrating by correspondence. At this point he became interested in painting.

"I was impressed by his sincerity," said Mr. Duncan. "He wants to improve himself and to share with others. These classes for children are pretty much his project."

"I was much encouraged to see some Soweto businessmen at the exhibition and to hear them talk of trying to start something on the same lines."

## SAVED MONEY

In Canada and the United States, children put aside the pocket-money they earn for odd jobs and send it to buy materials for the art classes. One small girl made and sold sweets and donated the money.

The Africa Art Project encourages art throughout Africa as a creative activity for adults and children, for religious and educational programmes.

Mr. Duncan, whose stay in Africa is drawing to an end, is working hard to complete a research undertaking, together with Dr. William Hudson, at the University of the Witwatersrand.

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