French artist, Flathead children meet at Blue Bay on Flathead Lake

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases

Recommended Citation
http://scholarworks.umt.edu/newsreleases/5022
FRENCH ARTIST, FLATHEAD CHILDREN
MEET AT BLUE BAY ON FLATHEAD LAKE

MISSOULA--

Children from the Flathead Reservation are getting to know a live French Impressionist this summer in a new experimental art class coordinated by the University of Montana Indian Community Action Project (ICAP).

The art classes, which began Aug. 4, will continue through Aug. 15 at Blue Bay Lodge at Flathead Lake. Participating in the classes are 24 children, ages 5-13, recruited through the Community Action Project (CAP) on the Flathead reservation.

A two-week exhibit of the children's camp art projects will begin Thursday (Aug. 21) at the First National Bank in Missoula. The exhibit is open to the public.

The classes coincide with a two-week summer recreational program for the children at the lodge, owned by the tribes on the Flathead Reservation. Children participating in the art classes either reside at the lodge for the two weeks or commute from their homes.

Michele de Santene, a self-taught painter whose birthplace is Nice, France, is conducting the fine arts classes. Each class lasts four hours daily, Monday through Friday.

The children pursue drawing and painting using media such as oil paint, ink, crayons and charcoal. They are "free to express themselves" with resulting varied subjects, including lake scenes, Indian figures, animal and plant life.

Miss de Santene administers individual instruction according to each child's interests and abilities. Said Miss de Santene, "The children have exhibited talent and motivation above any expectation."

Art classes are conducted in a log cabin on lodge property. Art supplies and the artist's consultant fee are provided for by the UM ICAP.
Thomas E. McDonald, director of CAP on the Flathead Reservation, Dixon, said, "The art program is one of the best programs on the Flathead reservation." This is the first year of an art program at Blue Bay Lodge.

Miss de Santene, whose address is 1148 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C., became interested in teaching Indian children when she attended an Indian arts and crafts conference in her city. Said she, "The Flathead Indians are close to my heart because of their strong French background."

Miss de Santene describes herself as "basically a painter and not a teacher." Her major area of concentration is oil with a strong French impressionist background.

She is represented in the permanent collections of five museums, including the Museum of the Vatican and the Museum of Rome. Her works also appear in private galleries in New York, Paris and Italy.

Among her many medals, diplomas and prizes won all over Europe is the International Prize Dag Hammarskjoeld achieved in Geneva and the Merite National Francais medal won in Paris.

Miss de Sandene's husband, Oscar Sachs, is a practicing psychoanalyst in New York City. The couple has two daughters, ages 11 and 15.

Children participating in the art classes are from the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Reservation. They include:


###