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ART EXHIBIT, RECEPTION
FOR FLATHEAD STUDENTS AT
BANK IN MISSOULA

MISSOULA, Mont.---

Drawings and paintings by 26 Indian children and students on the Flathead Reservation will be displayed in Missoula beginning Thursday (Aug. 21) by the University of Montana Indian Community Action Project.

The exhibit will open to the public at 4 p.m. at the First National Bank in Missoula. It will continue for two weeks through Sept. 4.

The art projects are by members of the Confederated Salish-Kootenai tribes between the ages of 5-30 on the Flathead Reservation, who studied in a new experimental art program Aug. 4-15 at Blue Bay Lodge at Flathead Lake north of Missoula. The lodge is owned by the tribes on the reservation.

Michele de Santene, a self-taught oil painter with a strong French Impressionist background, conducted the classes and administered individual instruction. Miss De Santene is a native of Nice, France.

The works are in a variety of media, including oil paint, ink, crayons and charcoal. Subject matter includes lake scenes, Indian figures, animal life and plant life.

An invitation-only reception at 4 p.m. Thursday at the bank will mark the official opening of the exhibit. Expected at the reception are Thomas E. McDonald, director of the Community Action Project (CAP) on the Flathead Reservation; Dr. Charles W. Bolen, dean of the UM School of Fine Arts and professor of music, and Dr. James F. Hall, director of the UM Division of Indian Services.

Also expected are 13 tribal council members and officers from the Flathead Reservation, UM faculty members, the student artists, and their parents and relatives.

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Three works by Miss De Santene will be displayed at the bank.

Said Miss De Santene, "Four of the students have the talent and capacity to enter an art course at the University of Montana." She added that Dean Bolen will be consulted on the nature of the course.

Miss De Santene, who lives at 1148 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C., with her husband and two daughters, became interested in teaching Indian children when she attended an Indian arts and crafts conference in her city. "The Indian arts are in danger of becoming extinct unless something is done," she said.

"The Flathead Indians are close to my heart because of their strong French background," she added.

Miss De Santene is represented in the permanent collections of five museums, including the Museum of the Vatican and the Museum of Rome. Among her many medals, diplomas and prizes won all over Europe is the International Prize Dag Hammarskjöld achieved in Geneva and the Merite National Francais medal won in Paris.

The children and students who will have works in the exhibit were recruited for the art program through CAP on the Flathead reservation. They include:

Alberta Bertsch, Robby Steele, Scott Gefeller, John Lipscomb, Laura Lipscomb, Alameida Addison, Susan Gates, Frances Gates, Thomas Lozeau Jr., Julie Cajune, Myrna Adams, Raymond Antiste, Alan Caye, Roberta Woolsey, Ramona Cajune, Betty Steele, Martin Barnaby, Christine Ely, Terri Wall, Lamoine Hendrickson, Rudy Vanderburg, Marvin Gardipe, Jo Morigeau, Beverly Bertsch, Annie Vanderburg and Johnny Arlee.

Tribal council officers who will attend the reception are Harold W. Mitchell Jr., chairman, St. Ignatius; Fred Whitworth, vice-chairman, Arlee; Gerald Hamel, sergeant at arms, Ruby Christopher, treasurer, Dixon, Dixon; and Fred Houle Jr., secretary, Dixon.

Tribal members will include William J. Ely Jr., Ronan; Patrick Lefthand, Elmo; Robert A. McCrea, Dixon; Archie McDonald, Niarada; E.W. Morigeau, Polson; Floyd Nicolai, Arlee; Leo Sias, Ronan, and Alvin E. Sloan, St. Ignatius.