

Staten Island Adventure

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1965

World's Fair to Display Willowbrook Patients' Art

Works of art by patients in India and Australia. Willowbrook State School will be included in a display opening Sept. 21 in the Promenade of Industry at the World's Fair Demonstration Center.

The exhibit is called "Art of the Retarded" and comprises 100 creations by mentally retarded patients at institutions in France, Italy, England, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Canada, the U.S., Nicaragua, the Philippines, Japan, the

India and Australia. The art from Willowbrook is by 12 patients, whose ages range from 12 to 30. The chronological ages of other exhibitors is 5 to 50. Their IQ's are between 20 and 70.

The collection was assembled by Dr. Tonel Rapaport, a French psychiatrist, of 69 Sherman Ave., St. George. Dr. Rapaport, who moved to Staten Island last October, is a native of Rumania but con-

siders himself a Parisian. He came to the United States in 1954. His wife, Mrs. Marjorie O'Brien Rapaport, an artist and former art instructor, selected the works for their esthetic qualities.

The art works will be at the Fair until it closes on Oct. 17. The Willowbrook art consists mainly of paintings in oil and water colors, Dr. Rapaport

Dr. Rapaport said he feels creative expression can be used in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and education. He said he became interested in psychological art when he was still in France. At the school of anthropology, he said, he became interested in prehistoric art and combined the two interests when he moved to the U.S.

The city's chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children is sponsoring the exhibit. According to Dr. Rapaport, works of art "can reveal a non-speaking child's intellectual level, personality traits and emotional disorders. They also illustrate that the artistic gift is unrelated to mental development, speech development, age or culture."

He cited research now being done with retarded people who have a high degree of artistic expression. The Japanese painter, Kiyoshi Yamashita, for instance, is considered the "Van Gogh of Japan." His IQ is 68, but he is said to paint with beauty and skill, the Rapaports said.

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