

The artist Louis Steyn

S. A. Artist's Renditions of Ancient Art seen in Canada



Native fishermen provide the theme for this multi-colored batik.

EXHIBITION PROGRAM FOR STEYN BATIKS

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| November 4—December 5: | Edmonton Art Gallery. |
| December 8—December 29: | Art Gallery, Regina Public Library, Sask. |
| February 1—February 28: | Mendel Art Gallery, Sask. |
| March 5—March 31: | Alberta College of Arts, Calgary. |
| April 5—April 30: | Glenhyrst Arts Council, Brantford, Ont. |
| May: | Confederation Art Gallery, Charlottetown, P.E.I. |
| June: | Arts & Culture Center, St. John's, Newfoundland. |

MR. LOUIS STEYN OF PRETORIA is one of the talented South Africans who practise the unusual art form of batik, an ancient medium where waxes and pigments are used to produce a design on textiles. Having started on batiks only ten years ago, he has gained recognition both at home and abroad.

This is the more remarkable when one considers that Mr. Steyn practises batik designs merely as a hobby and that he did not initiate overseas interest in his art. A wild-life artist by profession, he satisfied an urge to paint decoratively in an unusual medium by attending elementary classes at the local technical college under the guidance of Miss Max Steytler, but without intending to pursue the medium further.

Six months later he was "tempted" by a friend into trying his hand at waxes and pigments. A search for literature on batiks proved fruitless, until two foreign chemical companies provided Mr. Steyn with guidance, and later with batik materials. His interest revived, and he carried his love for wild life and country further by producing decorated batiks with bird and animal motifs.

A feature of this art medium is that the coloring penetrates the material, creating a permanent image visible from both sides of the cloth.

When, in 1966, three art connoisseurs from the United States visited South African art galleries and were impressed by Mr. Steyn's work, he became known abroad. Each of the visitors took home a number of the works for private display but was later requested by art-lovers to arrange for a complete one-man show by Mr. Steyn. This resulted in forty works being commissioned for exhibit in several galleries in Canada.

*A sleeping figure in white,
olive and light brick.*

