

## PRESS RELEASE AUGUST 2003

### EXCITING INTERNATIONAL ARTWORK TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN MAJOR LONDON HOSPITAL THIS AUGUST

IN SEPTEMBER 2002 multi-media artist Jim Anderson travelled to Kenya to work with David Kimani and members of Nairobi's Juhudi Children's Club on a series of four ceramic mosaic murals in Gertrude's Garden Children's Hospital, Nairobi. This project, supported by various local businesses, was a great success, attracting the attention of the British Council in Nairobi and the British High Commission, as well as from journalists with The Young Nation newspaper and the Club Kiboko programme on Kenyan children's TV. The initial idea was suggested by Anglo-Kenyan journalist Charlotte Njeru. The Juhudi Children's Club founded by Mr. Kimani is an organisation which aims to provide school-age children in Nairobi with cultural, sporting, and artistic experiences they might not otherwise get.

On the strength of this success - and as a tangible example of the idealistic, new spirit that came into being in Kenya after Emilio Kibaki's victory in last year's elections - it is hoped that each year for the foreseeable future will see a similar collaboration between Mr. Anderson and the Juhudi Club, either in Kenya or the U.K.

FROM 13th 28 AUGUST THIS YEAR, Mr. Kimani and seven children (aged 8 15) from the Juhudi Club will be visiting London in order to collaborate with Mr. Anderson on the construction of a new mosaic mural in the garden of the children's ward of The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel, London. They will be supported by Ginny Carvesiglia of Vital Arts (a London-based organisation dedicated to the promotion of art in hospitals). It is hoped that some of the children and staff in the hospital might assist in the work too. Funding for the children's stay in London has been obtained from a private benefactor, and it is hoped that sources in Kenya will subsidise their travel. The mural itself will be made from recycled ceramic fragments and pieces of mirror, plus tiles provided by Intertiles (Balls Pond Road, London). It will measure 6ft. x 14ft., and the theme following a motif already established in the children's ward is to be "The Sea".

The aims of the project are sixfold:

To help create an inspiring, colourful, and life-affirming environment for the children and staff in the hospital.

To encourage the creative and imaginative faculties of the children and adults involved.

To prove that enduring and dramatic artworks can be made from discarded recycled materials.

To bring a small beacon of hope and optimism to the embattled and overloaded NHS.

To prove that not all news connected with Africa is about gloom, war, debt, corruption.

To work in a spirit of international co-operation and good-fellowship.

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