



CLAUS BASTIAN, a former Tyrolean laborer under the Nazis, displays his art work at an exhibition at Schober's Gallery, 6925 Lindbergh bl. —Globe-Democrat Photo

Happiness Is a Look at Claus Bastian's Paintings

By BEULAH SCHACHT
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

Despite years of working as a Tyrolean laborer under the Nazis and months in a Nazi concentration camp, Claus Bastian paints and sculpts happy memories.

It was only about 10 years ago that Mr. Bastian turned his talented hand to sculpting and oils after doing little more than toy with sketching and enjoying the company of famous artists such as Picasso and Dufy while studying at the Sorbonne in Paris.

EXHIBITION TO OPEN

An exhibition of his work opens Friday at Schober's Gallery, 6925 South Lindbergh bl. Recently he has had shows in New York and San Francisco. Mr. Bastian will be here for the opening.

"Many of my things, I do from memory," he said. "Memories of my life in France and in the Tyrol."

Before World War II, Mr. Bastian was very interested in the socialist dream and, because of his political beliefs, spent months in a concentration camp after the Nazis became all-powerful.

During the war, he worked as a laborer in the Tyrol but his paintings are not of sad memories, but of happy sunlit mountain scenes and jolly villagers.

Mr. Bastian, 57, did learn that he doesn't care for Russians and his youthful enthusiasm for socialism has disappeared.

SUCCESSFUL LAWYER

Now, as a successful Munich lawyer, he represents H.R.H. Konstantin, Prince of Bavaria,

and takes care of the royal family's tax problems.

"Perhaps you don't know it, but the Vavarian royal family has never recognized any government but the monarchy, and Prince Konstantin is heir apparent to the throne," Mr. Bastian said.

For Mr. Bastian, H.R.H. Konstantin wrote a preface for the artist's program and it begins: "I am happy to introduce to the American public Claus Bastian, a Munich painter. We both join in the admiration of the great cultural efforts emanating today from the United States which instill new artistic initiative into the old world."