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June 13, 2006

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Release: Immediately through June 25, 2006

Calendar Listing

ART Without Borders presents EVENT #1 showcasing Boston based and international artists, June 23-25 at the Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA. Three days of art exhibitions, concerts, and speakers connected with the international artist community in cooperation with the Sudanese Education Fund and VSA of Nigeria. Dan Fenn, founding director of JFK Library, keynote speaker. Schedule and information at <http://www.artwb.org>, via email at info@ARTwb.org, or phone 781-307-7306.

Press Release

ART Without Borders Showcases Art, Music and Poetry by Boston based and International Artists

Art Without Borders announces EVENT #1, its debut event, a weekend of art exhibitions, concerts, and lectures. The weekend combines the talents of artists and musicians from Sudan and Nigeria with local artists and performers who share an inclusive view of world culture.

EVENT #1 takes place at the Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA. Dates and times are Friday June 23 6pm-9:30pm, Saturday June 24 1pm-9:30pm, and Sunday June 25 1pm-5pm.

Keynote speaker Dr. Dan H. Fenn, founding director of the JFK Library will address "Art in a Troubled World" at the opening reception Friday at 6pm. Dr. Fenn enjoyed a long career as a public servant, including in the Kennedy White House. Since retirement, he has supported civic causes around his home town of Lexington, including serving on the board of the Lexington Symphony, several local choral groups, and the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center.

On Saturday at 2pm, Marika Barnett, photographer, will discuss and show slides of her photography project “Beauty and Dignity in the Slums of India.” At 5pm, poets Cammy Thomas, Kevin Bowen, Bob Clawson and Julia Lisella will read selected poems that reflect on the intersection of politics and art.

There will also be music throughout the weekend. On Friday June 23 at 8pm, jazz diva Melissa Kassel will be joined by composer and keyboardist Marc Rossi. Rossi has made a life-long study of Indian music and brings a broad cultural awareness to his music-making. As ARTwb’s first mentor, he will also be playing and improvising on Saturday June 24 at 3:30pm with Sudanese musicians Atem Garang, William Manyok. The Sudanese musicians build their own instruments, including guitars, and are vigorous performers, dancing as well as playing their music.

Along with the music on Saturday at 3:30pm, Susan Winship, director of the Sudanese Education Fund, will discuss the work of the Fund, including its mentoring work with Sudanese artists. Ellen Morgan from SEF has mentored Isaac Majak, a young photographer from Sudan, starting with providing his first camera. Majak’s art will be on display in the gallery. Aduel Riak, who has come to Brandeis University from Sudan after finding refuge in Ethiopia, will talk about Sudanese culture. The mentoring efforts of SEF provide a model for ARTwb’s developing mentoring program.

Saturday at 7:30pm will be the final music event of the weekend. Folk/pop musician Peter Donnelly, longtime music-maker in Provincetown, and Teresa Storch, who has recently made a name for herself in New England and nationally, will perform original songs.

Throughout the weekend, an art exhibition will showcase the work of featured artists, including paintings by Atem Alue of Kenya and Sudan, the colorful mixed-media work of Segun Olorunfemi of Nigeria. The exhibition also features photographs by Isaac Majak and Machar Nai of Sudan and Marika Barnett’s photographs of India. The exhibit is curated by ARTwb’s founding director Sirarpi Heghinian Walzer. On Sunday June 25 from 1-5pm, the exhibit will continue to be on display at the Democracy Center. The sale of art work during Event #1 will benefit the artists, Sudanese Education Fund, ARTwb, and VSAarts of Nigeria, which conducts educational programs in Nigeria teaching traditional dance, drumming, painting, and batik for children with disabilities.

For the complete schedule of EVENT #1, visit <http://www.artwb.org> or email info@ARTwb.org or call 781-307-7306 for a brochure.

ART Without Borders is concerned with artists’ freedom of expression in all forms. ARTwb helps artists who have been disadvantaged, including those who have been persecuted or forced to become refugees, by providing exposure for their work and helping them develop a professional network here so they can continue to make art. It also works with partner organizations to help artists who remain in their own countries but are struggling in a climate of persecution or poverty. ARTwb members also provide

mentoring for disadvantaged artists to help them find opportunities in the professional art world of the United States or their native country.

ARTwb partners with organizations like the Sudanese Education Fund, which supports art education in Sudan by providing supplies for Sudanese artist-teachers and helping them return to Sudan to teach. Proceeds from art sales from EVENT #1 will also benefit VSA Arts of Nigeria, which provides art and music education in Nigerian schools, with particular focus on handicapped children.

ART Without Borders is a newly formed non-profit organization (status due in September) incorporated in April 2006, whose mission is to support artists who are or have been victims of human rights violations and abuse. It plans to produce more events like EVENT #1 to bring refugee artists' work to the public's attention.

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