



PAUL RIFKIN

Art Shines Light On Human Rights

Sudanese artist Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed sprays the first strokes of a mural, part of an art installation, "Water and Fire: Message From Hometown, Sennar," last week at Cotuit Center for the Arts. Surrounded by four bonfires, a group from the community joined him in spraypainting the wall hanging.

Mr. Mohamed will be artist-in-residence at the center through March 27.

Mr. Mohamed was born in the city of Sennar, which is at the geographical center of Sudan, the largest country in Africa. The bonfires surrounding the installation were representative of the bonfires that were lit every evening in Sennar to welcome travelers to the city. Elizabeth Swanson Goldberg, outgoing chairman of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, facilitated a discussion about torture at the event. The installation honored those who have been tortured and killed attempting to inform the world about global events.

The center is presenting an exhibit, *On Borders and Other (Im)Natural Elements*, which brings together, for the first time, four recent installations by Mr. Mohamed, who is known for artwork that promotes awareness of human rights issues and violations. The installations are *Umbororo Crossing Cape Cod*, *Delirium*, *In Transition*, and *Dialogics*. Comprised of different media, including large-scale sculpture, photography, painting and cloth, the installations share an exploration of the problems created by man-made geographic and interpersonal borders, as well as a commitment to offering alternative visions of fluidity, unity, and love.

On March 26, there will be a music, movement and image session titled, "What Moves You? Image Making through Music and Movement," and a Sudanese folk music concert with acclaimed musician Jim Gorashi is scheduled for March 27. Tickets can be purchased by calling 508-428-0669.



Artist and activist Elshafei Dafalla Mohamed of Sudan and Elizabeth Goldberg of Sandwich, outgoing chairman of the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, led an art event at the Cotuit Center for the Arts. It included both a discussion of torture and an art installation. Mr. Mohamed said the installation honored journalists who have been tortured and killed while attempting to inform the world about global events.



Cape residents join Mr. Mohamed in spraypainting a wall hanging during the art installation at the center. Mr. Mohamed will be an artist-in-residence there through March 27. The photo at the upper left shows Mr. Mohamed beginning the hanging.