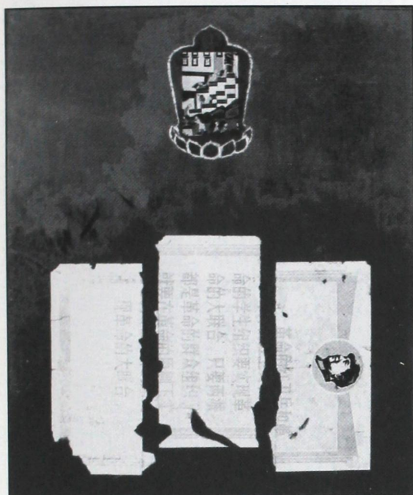


World Artists for Tibet

Celebrating Tibetan Culture: Ancient & Modern

art & politics

by Ruth Payne



Towards the Rebuilding of the Potala acrylic & collage on canvas. Collage includes a Chinese poster from the Dalai Lama's summer residence. 36" x 30". By Barry Shelton.

Throughout history, the art world has always played a major role in reflecting its society's values, issues, and struggles. Whether through visual art, music, film, dance, poetry, or literature, cultures have been profoundly moved, educated, and entertained by creative media.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre July 2 to 10, North Shore and Vancouver artists will join the international World Artists for Tibet project with an event entitled *Celebrating Tibetan Culture: Ancient & Modern*. This exhibition features current works of 20 established artists, as well as Tibetan artwork and crafts borrowed from local public and private collections.

This project's vision is to use the power of artistic expression to bring attention to a major struggle facing the world today—human rights violations, particularly in Tibet. The hope is that if people worldwide are informed about the Tibetan plight, there could

be an international response of compassion which may lead to the alleviation of the suffering and persecution.

The origins of World Artists for Tibet (which runs internationally July 1 to August 31) was with Belgian artist Frank Liefvooghe and Oliver Dupuis of the European Parliament. Plans were discussed with His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his October 1997 visit to Strasbourg, Austria, who gave his support to the project. To date, more than 3,000 artists from 45 countries have signed on for World Artists for Tibet. Some of the artists who have agreed to participate include Richard Gere, Elliot Gould, Sean

Lennon, Annie Lennox, Lou Reed, Yoko Ono, Phil Borges, and Rosie O'Donnell.

Locally, artists will showcase the variety and beauty of Tibet through photography, sculpture, painting, textile art, glasswork, printmaking, and mixed-media installations. Numerous special events including music and dance performances, slide presentations, film and documentary screenings, debates, and discussions are also scheduled.

North Shore artists exhibiting include Ros Aylmer, Ursula Medley, Marina Papis, and Ian Rowles. Daniel Izzard is contributing one of his oils, as well as a painting of the Potala for sale as a limited-edition poster.

Renowned local artist Toni Onley, a long-time supporter of Tibetan refugees, is also participating. Onley facilitated the building of a centre for Tibetan refugees in Darjeeling, India, in the 1960s; it is now operated by the Dalai Lama's sister. He has been responsible for raising a quarter of a million dollars for the building of hospitals and refugee centres in northern India, much of it from the sale of his artwork.

Many of the local artists exhibiting have been to Tibet and experienced the gentleness, beauty, and humour of its people, as well as the devastation of the Tibetan culture. Monica and Barry Shelton, West Vancouver-based artists, travelled through Tibet with their three-year-old son, Corey, and say, "Tibet touched us profoundly. The open warmth and strength of the Tibetan people, the awesome elevating nature of the landscape, and the culture of practised compassion and high spirituality continue to move us in our own life and work as visual artists living and painting in the 'studio of the world.'"

Celebrating Tibetan Culture: Ancient & Modern runs July 2–10 at the Roundhouse in Vancouver. For more information, call Elizabeth Kidd at 713-1806 or event co-ordinator Ruth Payne at 925-1491. ♦

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