History and Purpose

By Gale Jackson

riots in Sharpville. Even as I write, this, which should not be personal but is, a very personal struggle, to draw the connections, to make others see how it is. In Sharpville, thirty one dead. Already, it’s Friday. The government has banned meetings on the incidents. Under the ‘anti-terrorist’ acts, the government may ban funerals for those slain. Protest songs banned, graffiti banned, gatherings banned, people banned or exiled. Demonstrations in the Black township shantytown ghetto just outside the Emerald City of Johannesburg the increases in rent having become the symbol of paying too much too often getting too little.

no matter how I write it it’s wrong. because it is. Defying the imagination wrong hard too real for too many but here—who business as usual, the election campaign, the trappings of civilization like fig leaves over mass murder dislocation disenfranchisement. Too few know, and those who know must tell. And so, pressed against the urge to cry or kill or simply remain glued to the radio for the word on i people, it becomes necessary to take this time to teach.

With the official kick off of the art against apartheid campaign in October 1984 we will be speaking out 400 and more voices strong, in visual arts, in music, in poetry and prose and dance, against apartheid. We will be speaking to a variety of communities: in churches, in community centers, in libraries, in established galleries, in office buildings in schools and on the streets. We will be speaking out in protest against the genocidal system of apartheid and our government’s supportive relationship to that system and we will be speaking out in celebration because there is resistance and it lives and it grows and it will win. We will be speaking for those voices silenced, censored, banned and isolated in their own land. We will be joining a chorus of freedom fighters who will not be stopped; echoing the voices of those who have come and gone before, nurturing the voices of the children who will be born in a free South Africa, who will demand nothing less than that freedom and the culture of the liberated heart.

we will teach and learn and hopefully each of us will return to our communities with our minds on freedom and the connections between Soweto and Bed-Stuy and the Bronx, between Harlem and Mississippi and Sharpville, between each individual artist and the world in which we live.

in October 1984 we will be mounting 30 exhibitions on South Africa and the liberation struggle in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. During the course of the month there will be a number of cultural events and actions by artists in the performing and environmental arts similarly raising the issue of apartheid, elucidating the connections, and standing up in support of the oppressed majority of Black South Africans and their supporters. Though there will be a kind of core of activity in New York, there are events and exhibitions under the art against apartheid banner planned in other cities, in Chicago, in Los Angeles, in Atlanta, in Newark, Seattle, New Orleans, Dallas. Though there is a conscious thrust towards October activities neither the work nor the planning will end there. As many know by the nature of their own work, this art in support of South African liberation did not begin with an official art against apartheid and now that we have at least begun to create a network and a vehicle for this work we will certainly not be finished, these tasks, this support work, until liberation is won. And then there will, still, be more.

For the organizers working on the art against apartheid campaign October will mark over a year’s worth of meeting and planning and letter writing and phone calling to activate and organize artists and arts organizations to join in this movement, and October will mark over a year’s worth of growth and expansion of a vision. The art against apartheid campaign grew out of a collective working in the foundation for the community of artists (FCA) in the spring of 1983. That collective, of primarily visual artists, worked to produce a special anti-apartheid issue of Art and Artists. The issue’s success indicated a commitment on the part of many U.S. artists to work in an educational capacity—as cultural workers—against the U.S. government and corporate support of the apartheid regime. It also indicated the need to develop an ongoing structure for reaching an ever broader audience. Too many people do not know about apartheid and the seriousness of its devastating effects on the lives of the peoples of Southern Africa much less about the complicity of the United States in perpetuating that racist regime. In our own field, artists are being lured to perform and exhibit there, giving credence and legitimacy to that which is morally and intellectually unacceptable while here, too many who would give their voices in support of that people’s liberation struggle have no platform, no vehicles for getting their word to the public. We have tried to create that platform. We continue to try to be that vehicle as art against apartheid grows to become every artist who would dare to speak out.

by the summer of 1983 the committee from FCA had gained the support of the U.N. special committee against apartheid and the African National Congress to hold a month of anti-apartheid exhibits and cultural events in October of 1984. In the fall of 1983 we initiated the first in a series of organizational meetings with artists, curators, organizers and representatives of the South African liberation struggle in order to develop a structural base. We worked closely with several artists organizing with the artist call against U.S. intervention in Central and South America and got invaluable information from their experience.

Out of our work together we developed a committee structure to facilitate the incredible load with 10 working committees focusing on specific areas of the campaign while two representatives from each committee met as a coordinating body to set priorities, make policy and direct our progress. We planned monthly general meetings to attract new people and their skills and input to the committees and through cultural and educational presentations at the meetings, to further the process of educating people about apartheid. In the course of the winter of 83-84 we mailed out over 11,000 calls to artists, exhibition spaces, community centers, churches, schools and arts organizations to inform them about apartheid, the U.S. role in Southern Africa and to urge their participation in the campaign. Five and ten dollar contributions from lots of respondents (as well as a couple of larger contributions) — thanks to all—fueled the initial stages of outreach and administrative organization.

Our campaign buildup began with a benefit party cabaret with serious business, les span, pam patrick, akbar ali, sechaba singers and a wonderful number of other special guest performers on march 3 1984. We held a public forum bringing together U.S. and South African artists and liberation movement representatives on March 16. This forum, as part of 22 weesler gallery’s ‘artist talk on art’ series, was entitled ‘Frontline art: Cultural action against South Africa’s apartheid’ and included Jean Carney bond (writer, editor freedomways), Mel Edwards (sculptor), nomawethu lokuhle (ANC women’s section), mathews (South African jazz singer), alexis devenish (poet playwright) and eloise brath (organizer, activist, visual artist). In April we hosted another party performance evening at westbeth with human condition and sedition ensemble, which only the rain inside could dampen. On June 16, in commemoration of the soweto uprising, we held a poetry reading at st. marks church with paula trim, Jessica Hagedorn, Safiya Henderson Holmes, teru kanazawa, patricia joines, hattie gessett and ubaka hill, gale jackson, sara miles, june jordan and Adrienne Torf. True to its name, we rang out ‘Sounds of soweto’.

The snowballing effect of people getting the word has been incredible. We have gathered over 350 artist endorsers and are glad to be getting new word every day on folks who will be joining us by October and for the long haul afterwards. We’ve even done a little advertising with good results—our artist call poster was posted all around New York and our buttons should be working their way to every progressive shirt, and there will be a catalog anthology coming out by October as well as more posters and much potential for street art.

We have, and continue to urge all artists, community workers and arts organizations to plan their own events in solidarity with this October anti-apartheid campaign. In October, in November, in January... the time has never been so right.
The library is under pressure, and the movement is opposed. Black culture will be discussed on September 29. The best is the world of apartheid, and the Black majority population. Under apartheid, people's lives are severely restricted, and national liberation movements are banned. The freedom of movement is effectively restricted by passports which they must carry at all times. The racist regime has set aside 47% of the best land for the white minority, while forcibly consigning the African majority to less than 13% of the least productive land.

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
Phelps Stokes Fund
19 E. 71 St.
Manhattan
437-8100
Opening Reception 4:30 pm
Jazz Concert with Victor McCaskill & The Nomma Quintet
Hours: M-F 11-5 pm
Runs through Oct. 19

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
Harlem School of the Arts Gallery
465 St. Nicholas Ave. Room 112.
Harlem, 926-4100
Opening Reception 6:30-8 pm
Hours: Tues. 6:30-8, W-F 4-8 pm.
Runs through Oct. 13

**INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID FILM ART SHOW**
Amero Endo/Americand Indian Community House Common Space
164 Mercer St., Soho, Manhattan
226-5342
Hours: Tues., Sun. 11-6 pm
Runs through Oct. 31

**WINDOW INSTALLATIONS**
Food Stamp Gallery
233 Second Ave. (104 & 105 St.)
Manhattan, 831-2038
Hours: M-F 9-5 pm, Sat. 9-3 pm
Runs through Oct. 31

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
The Works
7 Lum Lane, Newark, NJ
(201) 465-0748
Opening Reception 7-10 pm
Musical performances including Sechubela
Hours: W-F 12-6 pm, by appt.
Runs through Nov.

**POETRY READING**
IKON MAGAZINE IN SOLIDARITY WITH ART AGAINST APARTHEID
Central Hall Gallery
200 W. Brookly, 4th floor, Manhattan
222-9210
With: Mirtha Quintanales, Mezeta Alexander, Karla Jackson-Brewer, Dwayne, Sandra I. Estes, Kimika Hahn, Saffiyah Henderson, Jettie Jones, Sappho, Susan Sherman
7:00 pm, Donation

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
The Works
7 Lum Lane, Newark, NJ
201/465-0748
Opening Reception 5 pm
South African film: "You Have Struck a Rock"
Discussion with Representative of African National Congress
7 pm, Donation: $2.00

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
City College Cohen Library
1360 St. & Convant Ave., Manhattan
690-4288
Opening Reception 5 pm
Hours: M-W 9-5, F 9-5, Sat. 12-6
Runs through Oct. 31

**POETRY READING/SLIDESHOW/POETRY/DISCUSSION**
Franklin Furnace
112 Franklin St., Manhattan, 925-6761
PADD’s Second Sunday
7:30 pm, Donation: $3.00

**POETRY READING/SLIDESHOW/POETRY/DISCUSSION**
St. Marks Poetry Project
10th St. & 2nd Ave., Manhattan
674-0810
A Sunday event for Art Against Apartheid with the St. Marks Poetry Project.
Noted poets will read their works.
4:30 pm, Donation $2.00

**POETRY/STORYTELLING**
New Muse Museum
1530 Bedford Ave.
Brooklyn
With Gale Jackson & Pam Patrick
1 pm, free

**FILM SHOWING & DISCUSSION**
The Works
7 Lum Lane, Newark, NJ
201/465-0748
South African film: "The Gods Must Be Crazy"
7 pm, Donation: $5.00

**SOLIDARITY WITH ART AGAINST APARTHEID**
With Martha Quiñones, Alice Esteves, Klmlka Hahn, Sallya Hendrson Holm.
7:00 pm, Donation

**EXHIBITION & BENEFIT SALE**
Mayor’s Office of Cultural Affairs
1200 16th St. & 8th Ave.
Manhattan
53rd St. on 8th Ave.(Municipal Garage)
Manhattan
475-5821
On view 24 hours

**PANEL DISCUSSION & FILM**
with the Schomburg Center for Black Culture
135th & Lenox Ave., Harlem.
Panel participants: Harry Belafonte, Paula Giddens, Arthur Ashe, Randall Robinson.
Documentary film on South Africa followed by discussion.
6-8 pm, Free

**PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION**
Schoomburg Center for Black Culture
515 Lenox Ave. (513 St.), Harlem
862-4000
South African Photographers George Hallet, Peter Magubane, Ernest Cole
U.S. Photographer Jeanne Moutassamy-Ashe
Opening Reception 5-7 pm
Runs through W-M 12-6, Thu. 10-6

**POETRY STORYTELLING**
New Muse Museum
1530 Bedford Ave.
Brooklyn
With Gale Jackson & Pam Patrick
1 pm, free

Other programs will also be scheduled. Call 227-8473 for information and additional listings.
All programs subject to changes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong></td>
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<td>DANC CONCERT S RI S</td>
<td>With Rustling Danz, Inc., Arnl Zeke, Bill T. Johnson, Eleo Pomr, Rod Rodgers, Dunn McIntyre, Doan Ket Danc Collabor, Myrna Renard (Br. runto Dance Collectiv)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GROUP SHOW IN SOLIDARITY WITH ART AGAINST APARTHEID</strong></td>
<td>At the Studio Museum in Harlem at the State Office Building, 125th St. &amp; 7th Ave.</td>
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<td>125th St. &amp; 7th Ave.</td>
<td>864-4500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work from the Permanent Collection Dec. 21</td>
<td>8:00 pm, Donation: $2.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>EXHIBITION &amp; BENEFIT SALE</td>
<td>22 Catherine St.</td>
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<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>732-0770</td>
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<td>Opening Reception 6-7 pm</td>
<td>Poetry Reading 7 pm with Seku Sundiata, Wesley Brown, To: Derickott, Faye Chiang</td>
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<td>Hours: Tues., Fri. 1-5 pm</td>
<td>Runs through Oct. 26</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>JAZZ &amp; POETRY CONCERT</td>
<td>City College, Aaronoff Hall, North Academic Bldg.</td>
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<td>138th St. &amp; Convent Ave.</td>
<td>864-4500</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Sonny Fortune, Hotep Gabo Galeta, Rene McLean, Jayne Cortez, Amiri Baraka</td>
<td>8:00 pm, Donation: $10.00 (advance student tickets $8.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXHIBITION &amp; BENEFIT SALE</strong></td>
<td>Abyssinian Baptist Church</td>
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<td>132 West 136th St.</td>
<td>862-7474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Reception</td>
<td>6-8 pm, Donation: $10.00 (includes refreshments &amp; free autographed book)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXHIBITION &amp; BENEFIT SALE</strong></td>
<td>Langston Hughes Library &amp; Cultural Center</td>
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<td>102-09 Northern Blvd.</td>
<td>Queens</td>
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<td>801-1100</td>
<td>Opening Reception: 6-8:30 pm, Hours: M, T, F 10-10 pm; W, Th 1-6 pm, Sat, by appt.</td>
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<td>Runs through Oct. 31</td>
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<td><strong>UPCOMING EVENTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>POETRY TALK SLIDE SHOW</td>
<td>Medgar Evers College Library Lounge, 1150 Carroll Street, Brooklyn</td>
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<td>221-8474 or 745-1750</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
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<td>With Alexis DeVeaux &amp; Gece Jackson</td>
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<td>Works from the Permanent Collection</td>
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<td><strong>THE WEEKDAY POETRY READING AT CITY COLLEGE</strong></td>
<td>Special program on issue of apartheid For more information contact: City College English Dept. 699-6741 April 1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXHIBITION &amp; BENEFIT SALE</td>
<td>New Muse Museum, 1330 Bedford Ave. Brooklyn 775-2900</td>
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**Art Against Apartheid** is an independent activity organized by a coalition of artists and supporting organizations and sponsored by the Foundation for the Community of Artists with the support of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid.

For more information: Art Against Apartheid, 280 Broadway, Suite 412 NYC 10007. (212)227-8473. All contributions are tax-deductible and can be made out to FCA/Art Against Apartheid.

**DESIGN**: LUCY FRADKIN
Art Against Apartheid

Statement of Purpose

Art Against Apartheid is an independent, multiracial and politically diverse coalition of artists working in the United States, who are committed to democratic ideals and the principle of racial equality. Out of this commitment, we feel a responsibility to speak out, through our art, against institutionalized racial discrimination in South Africa the apartheid system.

Our goal is to raise the consciousness of Americans about the inherent evil and practical effects of apartheid through the media of art and culture. Our dream is that one day a free South Africa will be won, in which all people are equal before the law, and in which no group imposes its will on any other on the basis of race or color. Art Against Apartheid is an independent activity, organized by a coalition of artists and supporting organizations and sponsored by the Foundation for the Community Artists with the support of the United Nations special committee against apartheid.

Support United Nations Endorsed BOYCOTT Entertainers Who Visit South Africa

America
Bob Anderson
Paul Anka
Susan Anton
Sheila Berman
C.L. Raitt
Ernest Borgnine
Beach Boys
Gwen Bristo
Shirley Brown
Nina Burrell
Scott Burrell
Glen Campbell
Clarence Carter
Ray Charles
Cher
Rita Coolidge
Chick Corea
Devine
Joe Dolan
Jack Dupree

Carla Fontana
George Forest
Michel Fox
Buddy DeFranco
Terry Gibbs
Francis Grier
David Hasselhoff
Richard Hatch
Goldie Hawn
Joe Henderson
Howard Hesseman
"Dr. Johnny Fever"
Jimmy Bo Home
Susan Howard
Peanuts Hucko
Janis Ian
David Jackson
Wills "Gator Tail" Jackson
Jack Jones
Gary Karr
Fern Kinney
Louis Lane
Jaime Laredo
Peter Mancini Dancers & Reborn
Barry Manilow
Ann Margaret
Barry Martin
Johnny Mathis
Mighty Clouds of Joy
Stephanie Mills
Liza Minnelli
New York Barber Shop Quartet
Linda Oliphant
Charles Paco
Alan J. Pakula
Dolly Parton
Helen Reddy
Tim Reid "Venus Flytrap"
Cliff Richards
Kenny Rogers
Angelo Romero (Resides in U.S.)
Linda Ronstadt
Shirley Scott
Sharon Shackelford
Sha Na Na
Neil Sedaka
Frank Sinatra
Percy Sledge
Jimmy Smith
The Staple Singers
Candi Staton
Dakota Staton
Buddy Tate
The Variations
Village People
Lovetace Watkins
Ronny Wright
Aaron Williams
William C. Witwer
Robert Wright
The Younghearts
Mark Zellner
Pia Zadora
Efrem Zimbalist, Jr.

Source: October 1983 UN Publication 83-28527
A complete list of international figures on the boycott list can be obtained from: U.N. Center Against Apartheid, United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017, 590-6930

Please be generous with your tax-deductible contributions.
Make your checks or money orders payable to:
FCA/ART AGAINST APARtheid
280 BROADWAY, SUITE 412
NEW YORK, NY 10007

I support the following:

☐ You can use my name in support of ART AGAINST APARtheid
☐ I am willing to work on a committee for these events
☐ Enclosed is a contribution to help with expenses
  ☐ $10  ☐ $25  ☐ $50  ☐ 100  ☐ Other

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ___________________ State ______ Zip ________
Phone ___________________ Discipline ___________________