

African Art Exhibit Raises Money For Darfur

By Doreen Bernardini

An exhibition of contemporary African art at the RVCC gallery opened with a fundraising auction to raise money for the people of Darfur, Sudan on Oct. 5.

"Out of Africa," on display through October 25, features the work of five artists from various African nations, and one African American artist from New Jersey.

"This exhibit is a fulfillment of a dream I have had ever since I started working with Art

History," said Vandana Nadkarni, the show's curator. "I'm a historian. It is my passion. Why? It is working with art and helping people. It is not just an exhibit; it is helping a worthy cause, making students aware and receptive to different world cultures."

The paintings are oil on canvas and oil on bark cloth. The works depict social and political turbulence in Africa with vivid color and brushstrokes. There is one silk screen print. Photographs of Africa by three students who recently traveled there are also on display.

The opening reception included talks by Professor Nadkarni, representatives

from Help Darfur Now, and Walton R. Johnson, former chairman of the African Studies and Anthropology department at Rutgers University. Artists Indra Bailey of Scotch Plains and Duhirwe Rushemera of Rwanda also attended. Painters Ritah Nabuyunungo Edopu and Joan Kkimuri of Uganda, Andriana Aboagye of Ghana and Mercy Moyo of Zimbabwe did not.

Ticket sales and proceeds from an auction conducted by Carol Remy of the Antiques Roadshow and Sotheby's Auction House raised a total of \$3,215. Tickets were \$765, and auction sales brought in \$2,450 for nonprofits Help Darfur Now and F3B, a basketball camp cultural exchange program for teenage American and African girls.

The gallery is open Monday, 3-8 p.m., Tuesday, noon-3 p.m., Wednesday, 3-8 p.m., Thursday, 3-6 p.m., and Friday, noon-3 p.m. Admission is free. For information about purchasing a piece, or other details, call (908) 218-8876.

For information about the charities, visit helpdarfur.org and f3bscholars.org.



Photo courtesy of Renee Sullivan
RVCC Professor Vandana Nadkarni prepares to arrange paintings for the exhibit and fundraiser "Out of Africa" on display in the art gallery through Oct. 25.