

ART AGAINST APARTHEID

Dear

Dumeli,

ART AGAINST APARTHEID invites you to participate in our Fall 1989 exhibitions to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Freedom Charter of South Africa. The charter, adopted in Kliptown, South Africa, on June 25, 1955 by numerous popular organizations of trade unionists, youth, women and others, is the credo of the anti-apartheid movement -- its blueprint for a free South Africa in which people of all colors will live in equality, justice and peace.

The ART AGAINST APARTHEID campaign will coincide with an historic moment in southern Africa: the holding of elections, for the first time, to inaugurate a free and independent Namibia. Even so, today's headlines tell of continued suffering in the land south of Namibia's border. The regime in Pretoria continues to heap abuse on the majority of South Africa's people, detaining over 30,000 in the past year -- including 10,000 children -- and killing thousands more. Nelson Mandela remains confined, along with thousands of other political prisoners. Meanwhile, the liberation struggle goes on.

In 1984, hundreds of New York artists participated in over 50 moving, powerful and informative exhibitions, performances and forums that brought the reality of apartheid into many local communities. Now, five years later, we are asking you to use your art once again to express our solidarity with the struggle for freedom and democracy in southern Africa.

The theme of this year's campaign is the Freedom Charter itself, the text of which is enclosed. Note that its tenets transcend the hopes and aspirations of the South African people to represent the concern of people worldwide for basic human rights. The charter's relevance to the situation in our own country is clear, as we face a growing economic crisis and increasing threats to our hard-won rights and freedoms.

We would like you to exhibit work in an invitational event at Westbeth Gallery, from October 7 to October 31, 1989. To date, three other shows are scheduled: an invitational at Bronx River Art Center; an international poster show at Gallery 1199; a mail art show at Brooklyn's Studio Gallery. Be assured that your work will be handled with the utmost care and secured by gallery attendants. Details about delivery of work, insurance coverage and the exhibition's opening will be forthcoming.

ART AGAINST APARTHEID will sponsor these other Fall campaign actions:

- * Development and distribution of film resource packets on southern Africa for community organizations
- * Southern Africa-related programming by arts organizations
- * Anti-apartheid billboards on public buses

Additional actions are being designed for the summer of 1990.

We look forward to your involvement in this important campaign. Please return the enclosed coupon, by [redacted] to ART AGAINST APARTHEID, 220 Manhattan Ave. Suite 5D, NYC 10025. If you have any questions or wish further information, contact Deirdre Bibby at (212) 926-7173.

Sincerely,

Susan Ortega 212-5567

ART AGAINST APARTHEID
Exhibition Committee