

June 4, 1979

PAINTINGS OF SUDAN By PACITA ABAD

Dr. Ismail Elhaj Musa, the Minister of Culture and Information, will open the art exhibition of Philippine painter Pacita Abad at the British Council in Khartoum today.

The exhibit, which will be open through June 10th, is being sponsored by the National Council of Arts and Letters and consists of twenty-three paintings of the artist's recent works in Sudan.

The internationally known painter will be having her fourth one-person show; her previous shows were in Washington, D.C.; Dacca, Bangladesh; and Manila, Philippines. Pacita has also participated in juried shows in Mexico City, San Francisco, New York City, Vienna, and Sofia.

Widely traveled, Pacita was born and brought up in the Philippines and received her formal art training in the United States and France. In addition, her extensive travels in Asia, Africa and the Middle East have given her a sensitivity to life in developing countries and she depicts these with vivid colors on her canvases.

A very prolific painter Pacita works on large canvases which give a panoramic, yet very detailed impressions of life in the province of Bahr El Ghazal where she spent most of her time. Pacita thinks that Sudan is a scenic country with a rich culture inspiring subjects for art in any medium.

During her three-month stay in Sudan, Pacita has talked with many of the local artists for whom she has a lot of respect. "They are artists who have to struggle to get their hearts on canvas. They have to make do with watercolor and suffer from the social and financial restrictions of not having human models. In addition, they need a museum of contemporary art to exhibit their works for the public to be aware of."

As a result of Pacita's many exhibits her paintings are collected by private collectors in many countries in Asia, Europe and the United States.