



## Photography of Sudan: "On the Nile Riverside" Exhibition



**P**hotographs of poverty-stricken Africans tend to evoke either feelings of pity or deep feelings of gratitude for one's own better fortunes. The "On the Nile Riverside" exhibit however, attempts to convey a different perspective. This tiny exhibit of 21 photographs by Nohae Park, a famous Korean poet and peace activist, portrays the strength, determination, and perseverance of the people in Sudan.

Although not a photographer by trade, Park uses images paired with reflective poetry to express his esteem for the Sudanese. He regards them not as impoverished people in need of charity and pity, but as resolute individuals with the will to survive.

Through a vibrant photograph of a young man planting a palm tree in the Nubian Desert, the artist hints at the hard work ethic that prevails within the Sudanese culture. He refers to the Sudanese as "ascetics of the desert," continuously sacrificing to plant and replant trees despite the detrimental sandstorms. Similarly, a black and white photograph of farmers sowing seeds in the fields indicates self-reliance and striving, regardless of limitations.

Park illustrates the theme of hope through a photograph of a poor refugee woman who attempts to prepare dinner for her starving child. Despite her material limitations, she

endures the hardships with hopes of a better life for her child in a new unfamiliar land.

Several photographs point to the importance of religion and prayer as keys to survival. One large print captures several Sudanese engrossed in evening prayers as the red sun disappears over the Nile river. Another image of a small and simple mosque amidst the desert sands reinforces the importance of religion in the lives of the Sudanese.

Hidden within the maze of alleys in the Gyeongbok area, this exhibit will be displayed in the RA-Cafe Gallery until November 13, 2013. Park's images and poetic works cannot help but make the visitor reflect on the strong will of the people of Sudan.

For more information please visit [www.racafe.kr](http://www.racafe.kr) or call 02-379-1975. Gyeongbok Stn. (line 3, ex. 3). Fri - Wed, 11 am - 10 pm. Closed on Thurs.



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