

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CIRCLE OF HOPE&PEACE

Collective Art Creation and Interactive Installation by Gema Álava with the collaboration of WCPUN at the Ceremony of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Also on the program: Keynote speeches, including from people living in poverty; launch of the report "Extreme Poverty is Violence: Breaking the Silence, Searching for Peace" and a musical performance by cellist Bryan West.

Wednesday, 17 October 2012. 1:15-2:30 pm
ECOSOC Chamber, North Lawn Building
United Nations Headquarters

Organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Movement ATD Fourth World, and the NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty. Co-sponsored by the Mission of France to the United Nations and the Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations.

To attend this event contact gemastudio@gmail.com by Friday October 12, 2012.
For security reasons, identification is required.



In 2009, artist Gema Álava was invited by curator Kimberly Marrero to create an art piece at the LOTUS HOUSE Women's Shelter in Miami on the occasion of their Annual Benefit entitled *Hope Blossoms*. Álava asked several residents to participate and write their thoughts about what love and hope meant to them, knowing that their ideas would be shown and shared while unable to be read-- Their thoughts were transformed into letters, which were fragmented in order to create a community pool of thoughts that expressed their dreams as a unique voice and an attempt to make visible the invisible. This piece, CIRCLE OF HOPE, was made with paper and 22 carat gold leaf pinned to a wall with white thread connecting different fragments of the letters.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, artist and World Council of Peoples for the United Nations Cultural Adviser Gema Álava will contribute to the ceremony the collective art creation CIRCLE OF HOPE&PEACE, an interactive installation made of fragments of texts written by people living in extreme poverty. Their words, about their hope for a better future, will be handed to and placed in a circle by each one of the panelists during the ceremony.

Letters from residents of the LOTUS HOUSE in Miami, the Saint Mary's Center in Oakland and other centers who take care of individuals who are living in extreme poverty, will be at the center of the ceremony as an example of how breaking silences is possible. Their words will be visible, heard and held by the UN Community, empowering us to work for change.

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Instalación artística colectiva dirigida por Gema Álava en colaboración con el WCPUN en la conmemoración del Día Internacional para la Eliminación de la Pobreza, Sede de Naciones Unidas, ECOSOC Chamber, Nueva York

En 2009, la artista Gema Álava fue invitada por la comisaria Kimberly Marrero a contribuir una obra en la Gala Benéfica a favor de la casa de acogida LOTUS HOUSE en Miami. Álava pidió a varias mujeres residentes que participaran y escribieran pensamientos en relación a lo que significaban para ellas los conceptos: amor y esperanza. Sus ideas serían compartidas con el público de modo que el público no pudiera leerlas-- Estas cartas fueron fragmentadas para formar una comunidad de pensamientos. La pieza, construida con papel y láminas finas de oro de 22 quilates sujetas a la pared con alfileres, contenía un hilo blanco que conectaba fragmentos de palabras.

El 17 de octubre, la artista y asesora de cultura del World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, Gema Álava, contribuirá a la ceremonia una instalación creada con fragmentos de textos escritos por personas que viven en extrema pobreza. Sus palabras sobre la esperanza en un futuro mejor, constituirán el foco de la ceremonia y serán colocadas por los conferenciantes en un círculo, siendo así no solo visibles y audibles sino también sostenidas por la comunidad de Naciones Unidas como ejemplo de cómo es posible romper el silencio y trabajar juntos por un cambio.

PARA ATENDER AL EVENTO CONTACTAR
GEMASTUDIO@GMAIL.COM ANTES DEL 13 DE OCTUBRE
POR RAZONES DE SEGURIDAD SE REQUIERE IDENTIFICACIÓN

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WWW.WCPUN.ORG / THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEOPLES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS