

PEACE IS IN OUR HANDS
CULTIVONS LA PAIX
CULTIVEMOS LA PAZ



السلام بين أيدينا
Мир в наших руках
让我们播种 和平

**(UNESCO)The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence Among Children of the World**



THE ART MILES MURAL PROJECT

For Immediate Release: Art Miles Launches “Sports for Peace Murals” at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

Eleven Art Miles Mural Project canvas murals painted in France, Egypt, and the USA (Colorado, California, and Ohio) will be a major part of the gala opening at the UNESCO Sports For Peace Conference on July 17, 2006. Member States and conference participants will be greeted by walls of colorful sport scenes painted by children and adults as a tribute to UNESCO’s Sports for Peace efforts in support of the Decade for the Culture of Peace and non-Violence Among Children of the World.

The Art Miles Mural Project actively supports the UNESCO Decade for the Culture of Peace by simply “Creating Global Harmony, One Mural At A Time, One Mile At A Time”. The Sports Miles was created with the objective of preparing for and supporting the 2008 sports and peace efforts for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

The mural “Marathon des Miles de l’Art” announces the French marathon launched on June 23, 2006 by College Saint-Charles in the city of Arles. The French Marathon will run until the end of the decade and aims at organizing painting events throughout France. Murals will be painted in particular on international days, in world heritage sites, and will, as well, illustrate oral and immaterial heritage.

The Art Miles Mural Project began in 1997 with 350 orphans painting a mural on a bullet-riddled sheet in Bosnia during the aftermath of war. These children served as the inspiration to Dr. and Mrs. Fouad Tawfilis to begin “healing hearts through art”. To date, more than 41,000 people have painted over 1,500 murals on canvas from more than 100 countries. There are twelve themed miles in process and each mile consists of 440 five by twelve foot acrylic painted murals.

The Art Miles Mural Project© is an international non-profit organization, based in San Diego, California, with satellite offices in Vienna, Austria, and Alexandria, Egypt. Mural art is created by children and adults, many times in distressed regions and with people of all ages, facing adversity who paint to raise awareness, share views, and stimulate learning about social, environmental, and issues of concern. These issues also include prevention of violence, causes of poverty, lack of education, the deteriorating environment, music, gender issues, and peace.

The project is about the PROCESS versus the actual results and numbers of murals completed. The Art Miles Murals are living and evolving visual documentation of children and adults collaborating and working toward a common goal — to live in peace and unity. The process of painting murals is intended to support community building wherein people of all ages and under all conditions come together and discover their commonalities and differences, communicate with one another, build friendships and dialogue, build bridges, encourage reconciliation, and to teach peace, respect and understanding. Additionally, mural painting helps with healing spiritual wounds caused by natural and human caused trauma and disasters. The project is currently operating with a dedicated, committed and caring all-volunteer staff, with more and more countries initiating national Art Miles Mural Project programs.

Art Miles Launches “Sports for Peace Murals” at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (cont.)

The founders and an all volunteer international non-profit organization staff plan to bring all the murals together in Egypt in the year 2010 to celebrate the Decade for the Culture of Peace. They strongly believe the soul and the spirit of this ancient culture, combined with the soul and spirit of the peace loving painters and people who see them, will resonate beyond the planet.

The Art Miles Mural Project has recently been recognized as one of ten “2006 Artists People Power for Peace” at the Montreux Jazz Festival, is the recipient of the 2006 Earth Society Foundation Award, and is a current nominee for the Americans for the Arts Public Arts Network Award.

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