Cultural activities
2003
Cover page
Peace
2002
Stained glass
100 cm 150 cm
Donated by the Eastwood Volunteers Bureau in 2003
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Cultural diversity is an opportunity to be seized, not an obstacle to be overcome. This is the basic premise of the Cultural Activities Programme at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Plurality of cultures not only enriches the lives of individuals, but it is also the basis of peace and prosperity for wider communities and for countries. Indeed, the 2004 United Nations Human Development Report highlights how cultural diversity contributes to economic and social progress. This analysis demonstrates that if we are to build a more prosperous and peaceful world, we need to embrace and encourage cultural diversity.

We can only learn to appreciate the benefits of this diversity if we engage with other cultures. The UNOG Cultural Activities Programme is a practical platform for such interaction among peoples of different traditions and backgrounds. Here, United Nations Member States present outstanding samples of their culture and heritage for others to learn about and develop greater understanding. Such exchanges among cultures are the foundation of a dialogue that can foster greater tolerance and respect. Across our differences, we are united by our common humanity.

Our Cultural Activities Programme continues to grow. This year, 36 Member States from all parts of the world contributed to the organization of a wide variety of events, attended by more than 15,000 people. Many events centred on particular priorities and activities of the United Nations. For example, as 2003 was the International Year of Freshwater, several exhibitions focused attention on the severity and urgency of the world's mounting water crisis. These events helped raise awareness of the need for close international cooperation in the preservation of this fragile and finite resource.

An increasing number of events are organized in cooperation between Member States. Some have also been arranged in collaboration between international organizations and individual Member States. These jointly arranged events exemplify the value of interaction among cultures and of the inherent potential of international partnerships.

It is my pleasure to bring you this overview of the achievements of our Cultural Activities Programme in 2003, and I look forward to its continued expansion and development. We need to build on cultural diversity for a better world - for us and for our children - and the United Nations Office at Geneva is proud to contribute.

Sergei Ordzhonikidze
Foreword by Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
For the 2003 Annual Report of Cultural Activities at UNOG
INTRODUCTION


In 2003, a large number of exhibitions, concerts, talks, film festivals and other events were organized. This is broadly consistent with the cultural programme of previous years, both in terms of the number of events and as regards the way they were organized. In 2003, 81 events were put on: 54 exhibitions, 10 concerts, 4 cultural talks, 2 shows and 11 film showings. The art collection was enriched with 23 donations of works of art.

The emphasis in the exhibitions changed from mainly artistic towards more United Nations-related themes. This is a positive development, since it permits the dialogue to be conducted not only on an international level but within the Organization as well. Of the 54 exhibitions, 31 were organized by Permanent Missions, 6 at the initiative of an international organization, 4 by the UNOG Library, 5 by UNOG staff, 6 by the Cultural Activities Committee and 2 by external bodies: the Association des bibliothécaires suisses (BBS) and the International Commission for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Leman Against Pollution (CIPEL).

Several of the 54 exhibitions were directly linked to the theme chosen by the United Nations General Assembly for 2003, the International Year of Freshwater. The importance of fresh water, and of protecting it and preserving its sources is a subject that has been picked up around the world and has had a significant impact on civil society. At the Palais des Nations, we saw multimedia installations, art exhibitions by international artists with a particular interest in the subject, as well as thematic exhibitions showing the work done by various international organizations.
On the musical front, 2003 has been an exceptional year. The standard of the concerts given at the Palais des Nations has always been high, and this year also we were privileged to welcome musicians of international renown. A new tendency has emerged, that of young talents from all horizons, whose virtuosity and artistic qualities were often able to surprise a critical and international audience. Seven Permanent Missions contributed to this musical dialogue: Armenia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Venezuela.

Fewer cultural talks were organized in 2003 than in previous years. Nevertheless, four important ones were given, and we were delighted to lend our services to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania, and the Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania. These talks certainly open up a direct dialogue in which ideas and knowledge can be exchanged on topics of fundamental importance, such as the many different facets of cultural diversity.

Support for our cultural programme is being constantly renewed, with more Permanent Missions taking part every year. In 2003, 36 United Nations Member States contributed, six of them for the first time: Albania, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bhutan, China, Czech Republic, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe and the International Organization of la Francophonie.
In all, approximately 15,000 people attended these cultural activities during 2003. This figure includes only those attending openings, concerts, talks or films. It is difficult to estimate the numbers who attend or view exhibitions after the opening: apart from the fact that the Palais des Nations has around 3,500 staff members, it also welcomes large numbers of visitors.

Generally speaking, between 100 and 200 people may be expected at an opening, 300 at a concert in Hall XIV, and between 800 and 1,000 at a major event in the Assembly Hall or a venue in Geneva city centre.
I. EXHIBITIONS: AN OVERVIEW

Fifty-four exhibitions were mounted at the Palais des Nations in 2003 as part of the programme arranged by the UNOG Cultural Activities Committee. Since 2003 was the International Year of Freshwater, there were several exhibitions on that theme, some of them artistic, others of a more documentary nature.

These 54 exhibitions were organized with the support of 27 United Nations Member States. An increasing number of international organizations also approached the Cultural Activities Committee to help organize exhibitions and other events in the Palais des Nations. Several such events were co-sponsored by a Member State of the organization in question: this is a very positive development because it means that the work of the United Nations reaches both an internal and an external audience. Events organized jointly by several Member States are also a new development, and a welcome contribution to the main aim of the cultural programme: to encourage the Dialogue among Civilizations.

The following list of the exhibitions mounted in 2003 is arranged according to sponsoring body. First there is a list of exhibitions organized by Permanent Missions; then come those organized by international organizations, the UNOG Library, UNOG staff (Socio-Cultural Commission and staff book clubs), the Cultural Activities Committee and lastly those that do not fall into any of these categories.
MEMBER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, 2003

ALBANIA

The Republic of Albania presented an exhibition by the Albanian artist Arben Golemi, whose paintings are made using a special technique of applying thick acrylic paint onto the canvas.

ANGOLA

The Republic of Angola supported a very successful exhibition of traditional African art from the private collection of Martin Sigam, president of the Pan African Association for art, Geneva: *From ancestor worship to healing practices in Africa*. The collection of traditional works of art was complemented by a series of contemporary paintings from Angola.

AUSTRALIA

Australia mounted an exhibition entitled *People in a Landscape. Contemporary Australian prints*, which displayed prints by some of the country’s most important contemporary artists. The works selected explored the two key Australian themes: landscape and the human form. It also included several works by Aboriginal artists connected to the Australian Print workshop, the organizer of this travelling exhibition.

BHUTAN


CHINA

China presented an exhibition of photographs with contributions from the Chinese Photographers Association (CPA). The third consecutive exhibition of its kind, the 2003 exhibition showed the cultural richness of the Tibetan region.

COLOMBIA

Colombia mounted an exhibition by two contemporary Colombian artists, entitled *Outer space, inner space: paintings by Carlos Salas and Carlos Jacanamijoy*, which showed two different aspects of contemporary Colombian art.

On the one hand there was the work of Carlos Jacanamijoy, who translates the traditions of his own Inga people into visual language. He is aware that contemporary painting has become a way of ensuring the continuity and renewal of tradition, and tries to use artistic expression to create a link between past and future generations.

On the other hand there were paintings by Carlos Salas, a world-renowned artist, who concentrates rather on reinventing painting. This project is based on the idea that a painting is perceived at one instant in time, but is the result of a sequence of images, a process he calls “step-by-step painting”. renouvellement des traditions, il essaie par l'expression artistique de créer des liens entre la génération passée et celle du futur.
CZECH REPUBLIC


This exhibition, organized to mark International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, 8 October 2003, recalled the Prague floods of August 2002.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic celebrated its independence day with an exhibition of paintings entitled Colours of the Caribbean. Paintings by Elizabeth Farinho, in which the artist illustrated her ability to inject a message of hope and happiness into her work, and underlined the importance of putting art at the service of those in need.

FINLAND, ITALY

Finland and Italy organized a joint exhibition of photographs of Rome in the 1950s, taken by a Finnish photographer. The exhibition was entitled Affinity: Rome in the fifties. Finnish perceptions. Photographs by Teuvo Lehti.
HUNGARY

Hungary presented an exhibition of sculptures by a gifted young Hungarian. Attila Ráth Géber was born in 1967 in Dunaújváros, south of Budapest, and studied at the technical university there.

He tried his hand at a range of artistic activities, including theatre, before devoting himself only to sculpture from 1992 onwards. He studied with the Hungarian artist Varga Géza Ferenc and is a member of the Hungarian Sculptors Society.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LA FRANCOPHONIE AND FRANCE

On the occasion of the International Day of la Francophonie, 20 March, the International Organization of la Francophonie and France organized an exhibition of works by the French-Martinican artist Charlotte Derain.

The exhibition, entitled *Africa revealed*, presented a large number of works in a mixed media technique, on themes evoking Africa in a way that reflected the artist's deep respect for certain values common to many traditional African societies.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Iran mounted an exhibition of contemporary art, another in the series of shows and other cultural events the country has organized over the years at Palais des Nations.

These events are part of a larger artistic movement started by the National Museum of Art, Tehran, which aims to make Iran's cultural heritage better known abroad, partly by organizing exhibitions by Iranian artists whose work and style testify to their ability to adapt Iranian artistic traditions such as the arts of miniature, calligraphy or landscape painting, to produce contemporary art that is often innovative and unique.
ISRAEL, LITHUANIA

Israel and Lithuania organized a joint exhibition on the theme of Jewish life in Lithuania, which retraced the history of the Jewish community since the 14th century and depicted aspects of Jewish social, cultural and family life and its influence on Lithuanian society and the world.

The exhibition was created with help of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, the Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum in Vilnius, the History Institute of Lithuania, and the Vilnius Centre for Civic Initiatives. A travelling educational exhibition, it was launched in 2002.


ITALY

Italy devoted a second exhibition to the work of the painter Aldo Salvadori - the first exhibition, in 2001, was a tribute to the work of Balthus’s wife and daughter, and included a few of Salvadori’s own works.

The 2003 exhibition was entitled Aldo Salvadori and his school, four generations of painters and it brought together works by the artist’s most important students, including Leonardo Cremonini, Dario Fò, Margherita Pavesi, Mazzoni, Ada Negri, Vincenzo Radino, Augusto, Silvia Manfredini, Leslie Meyer, Lavinia Negrotto Cambiaso, Samuel Tepler and Giovanna Salvadori.

An exhibition catalogue was published, entitled Aldo Salvadori et son école. Quatre générations de peintres (Milan, Skira, 2003).
ITALY, UGANDA

Italy also organized a joint exhibition with Uganda, this one of photographs showing the work of the Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI), one of the most important non-governmental organizations in Italy.

The exhibition illustrated the work done by volunteers in some of the more than 30 countries where AVSI currently runs projects, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The photographs were all taken by Francesco Fantini.

There is an exhibition catalogue, entitled AVSI/Africa. Foto di Francesco Fantini (Milan, AVSI, 2002).

JAPAN

Japan mounted a very original art exhibition based on the theme of water, L’eau prismatique, exhibition de peintures de Yoshiko Hirasawa, which aroused considerable interest among visitors because it explored spiritual and aesthetic aspects of water, thereby complementing the notion of water as a vital everyday need.

The creator of these works, Yoshiko Hirasawa, is a Japanese avant-garde artist living in Paris. Before coming to Europe, she was very well known in Japan as a television presenter, and she is still someone it is difficult to ignore. Her artistic search concentrates on water, an element that, for her, contains a spiritual energy. Her conception of water also encompasses scientific data defining water according to its physical characteristics. But what makes this artist’s vision unique is that she manages to weave all these elements into a sensitive aesthetic reminiscent of the harmony to be found in Zen Buddhism.
**MEXICO**

During the annual session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the Permanent Mission of Mexico and the Working Group organized a joint exhibition of paintings on handmade paper, *papel amate*, by Nahua artists of the Alto Balsas region of Mexico.

The exhibits, which were of extraordinarily high quality, illustrated the importance of cultural diversity and the continuity of artistic traditions in safeguarding the identity and unity of a people, and depicted different episodes of Mexico’s colonial history, as well as religious scenes and scenes from contemporary life.

**NETHERLANDS**

The Netherlands contributed to the cultural activities programme by organizing two exhibitions. The first of these had two components, *White gold: 18th-century Dutch porcelain* and *Textile creations by Rita Kok*. The first part of the exhibition showed Dutch porcelain from a private collection and retraced the history of the cultural influences on the country resulting from the growth of trade in the Golden Age.

The second part showed innovative creations by Rita Kok, a Dutch artist who takes her inspiration from Japanese art and aesthetics, while at the same time retaining a western concept of artists’ freedom to interpret their subject.
The second exhibition organized by the Netherlands was of a completely different nature. Entitled *The Hague, international centre for justice and peace*, and referring to all the international organizations with offices in The Hague, it showcased the work of a city that shares much common ground with Geneva in the areas of international law, disarmament and human rights.

This initiative was one of a series of cultural projects on the theme of *La sécurité humaine: une responsabilité commune*, organized as part of the 2003 Dutch presidency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).


**PERU**

Peru presented the exhibition *Peruvian impressions: paintings by Efrain Vidal*. Efrain Vidal, born in Peru in 1965, studied art at the Catholic Pontifical University of Peru. He now lives and works in Europe, in the Aosta Valley in Italy.

**ROMANIA**

Romania mounted an exhibition of paintings entitled *Inspiration: paintings by Mariana Ioanitescu*. Mariana Ioanitescu studied art and art history at the University of Bucharest in the 1970s before establishing herself as an independent artist and opening her own gallery in 1977. She has been a member of the Romanian Association for the Plastic Arts since 1984.
The Russian Federation’s contribution to the cultural programme included three exhibitions. Two of these were by Russian artists Alexander Petrov with his paintings of Venice, and brother and sister Sergei Borisov and Nadezhda Borisova, while the third celebrated the tercentenary of the foundation of the city of Saint Petersburg.

This last presented a selection of photographs from the press agency RIA-Novosti, showing the architecture and principal monuments of this “Venice of the North” as well as the festivities - both political events and public celebrations - organized on the occasion of this jubilee.
SINGAPORE

The Republic of Singapore supported an exhibition of the work of Tan Swie Hian, one of the most important artists of his country. Tan Swie Hian was born in Indonesia but studied modern languages and literature at Nanyang University in Singapore. He came to the arts through Buddhism and Chinese calligraphy, and is now one of the best-known artists in South-East Asia. He was the first artist to have a museum dedicated to him, and an open-air museum by the Yangtze River in China will soon be opened in his honour.

SWITZERLAND

Switzerland, our host country, organized two exhibitions, one to start the year, and another to bring it to a close. The first showed photographs by Willy Kaufmann, on themes that posed contemporary society some profoundly ethical questions. The artist’s concerns were reflected in the title of the exhibition, *Eating with your eyes*, a reference to the debate on genetically modified food.

The second exhibition was the result of an initiative by *artrium*, an exhibition space in the city of Geneva, which had asked to be involved in the cultural exchange between Geneva and the United Nations. The exhibition, entitled *Visions of water: an exhibition of contemporary art from Switzerland*, made a major contribution to the International Year of Freshwater, bringing together several Swiss artists to show their work on this important theme. The exhibition was conceived in such a way as to allow United Nations staff and delegations at the Palais des Nations to view one part, while simultaneously showing the other part at the *artrium* exhibition space in the centre of Geneva, which is open to the public. The participating artists were: Ben, Luc Chessex, Émilienne Farny, Marcel Imsand, Jean Lecoultre, André Raboud, Pietro Sarto, Jean Scheurer, Philippe Schiller, Philippe Visson. An exhibition catalogue was printed under the title: *Le regard de l’eau*, Geneva, *artrium*, 2003.
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The United Kingdom supported an exhibition of sculptures entitled *Paths of Life. Sculptures and paintings by Geoff Troll. With photographs by Bob Clayden*. This complex project consisted of sculptures and photographs, with a film showing and a concert at the opening. The central message was the importance of the aesthetic dimension in all efforts to promote harmony and peace. The show was put on during the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights.

URUGUAY

Uruguay presented the work of Ricardo Giordano. Born in 1948 in Durazno, in central Uruguay, Giordano studied at the Workshop of Plastic Arts in his home town, before going on to the National School of Fine Arts in Montevideo. After long years of living and working abroad, he returned to the capital of Uruguay, where he has made his home and now works as an artist and an art teacher.

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe supported an exhibition of modern sculptures entitled *Te: Zimbabwean Stone Sculptures*. 
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, 2003

ICTR

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA

An exhibition entitled *The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: Challenging impunity* aimed at promoting greater understanding and support for the Tribunal’s work, by focusing on its effectiveness in encouraging respect for international law and on the challenges involved in spearheading a shift from a culture of impunity to one of accountability in the social and political evolution of the African continent and beyond. In addition to films and the documentation, the exhibition included a press conference before the opening, given by Ms. Navanethem Pillay, President of the Tribunal, Ms. Carla del Ponte, Prosecutor of the Tribunal and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Mr. Adama Dieng, Registrar of the Tribunal. This event is part of ICTR’s outreach programme, launched in Rwanda and in the Great Lakes Region some years ago.

Two round-table discussions were held: these were open to the public and to students from the University of Geneva, and the first, chaired by the ICTR Registrar, Mr. Adama Dieng, was on “The contribution of the ICTR to the implementation of international criminal law”, while the second, chaired by the President of ICTR, Judge Navanethem Pillay, was on “Impunity, national reconciliation and protection of victims and witnesses”. The event also included a screening of the film *Justice Today, Peace Tomorrow*, which shows the Tribunal’s work and achievements with regard to national reconciliation in Rwanda.
IFAD

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A photographic exhibition entitled *What meets the eye. Images of rural poverty* consisted of 48 photographs taken in 2002 by five of the world’s most famous photographers, showing images of the largest segment of the world’s poor - the 900 million poor women, children and men who live in rural environments.

The exhibition was mounted on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of IFAD. It did not aim to celebrate, however, so much as to pay tribute to the achievements of the poor of the world’s rural areas during these 25 years. Through the photographers’ eyes, we were reminded that the daily struggle for survival of farmers and herders, fisherfolk and migrant workers, artisans and indigenous peoples, seldom catches the world’s attention.

A splendid book has been published with the photographs from this exhibition, entitled *What meets the eye. Images of rural poverty* (Rome, IFAD, 2003; ISBN 92-9072-028-X).

IOM

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

*Migrant Rights. A photographic exhibition*

This exhibition on migrants the world over, yesterday and today, was created with images from the IOM photo library, to illustrate the work of the Organization since its creation in 1951. It was mounted at the Palais des Nations to mark the entry into force of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on 1 July 2003.

UNDESA

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

*The Drop* was a multimedia installation involving, on the one hand, a large-screen showing of a film on the role of water in the daily life of people all over the world; and on the other, information concerning the work of the United Nations and related international organizations in the protection of this vital resource. This travelling installation formed part of the promotional activities for the International Year of Freshwater.
UNIDIR

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH


This exhibition retraced the life of Linus Pauling, a life dedicated to chemical and biochemical research on the one hand, and to peace on the other. Winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1954, and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1962, Linus Pauling was an American scientist who made his mark with his discovery of the structure of proteins, advanced the understanding of the structure of DNA and popularized the health effects of vitamin C; at the same time, he was one of the first pacifists to organize international campaigns against the nuclear proliferation.

WMO

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Tabl’eaux: an exhibition of paintings

This exhibition was organized as part of the International Year of Freshwater. It brought together artists from many different countries and gave visitors a glimpse of the extraordinary breadth of cultural diversity and of the conception of water in many and varied remote societies.
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING
IN THE PROGRAMME OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, 2003

**DIAE/CIPEL**


The exhibition, entitled *Protect water, protect life*, highlighted every aspect of this resource: water as the environment for flora and fauna, water as an energy resource, water as a vital element in agriculture, water as a consumer good and water as a leisure resource.

**IFLA/BBS**

The Swiss Librarians’ Association (BBS) organized an exhibition on Swiss libraries on the occasion of the annual meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), which took place at the Palais des Nations in 2003. The theme of the conference was *Libraries @ the heart of the information society*. 
EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS LIBRARY AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ARCHIVES

From the League of Nations to the United Nations.

The exhibition illustrates the efforts for peace made in Geneva beginning in 1920 with the League of Nations, and, from 1945 onwards, in the United Nations and its Office at Geneva, housed in the Palais des Nations. The steps in this process are retraced through unique documents such as archives, newspapers, posters, caricatures, photographs and treaties.

A thematic exhibition with documents and publications on the theme of the International Year of Freshwater

This exhibition was organized jointly with the World Meteorological Organization.

Fridtjof Nansen, the League of Nations and the International Protection of Refugees

This exhibition was organized jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to mark the publication of a special issue of the Refugee Survey Quarterly, dedicated to Fridtjof Nansen. The exhibition illustrated the efforts made under the determined leadership of the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen, appointed High Commissioner for Refugees in 1921, and under the aegis of the League of Nations, in the field of international assistance to refugees.

It demonstrated how the concept of legal protection of refugees came into being - through the creation of the famous Nansen passport - and how all the actions taken during this period led up to the establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1950. The exhibition illustrated this progress with unique documents, archives, international treaties and photographs.
Libraries and the Information Society

The libraries of the United Nations and the United Nations system play a unique role in helping to make the world aware of the efforts of the Organizations they serve, and how to learn from them. The meticulous and selective conservation of documentation plays a central role in establishing the institutional memory of the Organization. The libraries of the United Nations and the United Nations system are institutional libraries with responsibility for maintaining the historical perspective of the programmes and projects of the Organization.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY STAFF BODIES

Socio-Cultural Commission of the United Nations

Two exhibitions of contemporary art.

Chinese book club:

Exhibition of paintings by Hua Zheng.

Spanish book club:

Annual art exhibition in honour of José Maria Sert.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS WOMEN’S GUILD:

United Nations Women’s Guild

Annual arts and crafts exhibition.
EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY THE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Sophie Verbeek, calligraphy.

Jean Perrin, tapestries and pastel drawings.

For the recognition of Women’s Rights

Posters by Marc Zborowski.
Mosaics of the mind. Sculptures by Christine Pagès-Chevignard and paintings by Caroll Roughol.

II. CONCERTS

On the musical front, 2003 has been an exceptional year. The standard of the concerts given at the Palais des Nations has always been high, but this year we were particularly privileged to welcome musicians of international renown, including Aiman Mussakhodzajeva and Revital Hachamoff. Seven Permanent Missions contributed to this musical dialogue: Armenia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, the Ukraine and Venezuela.

PERMANENT MISSION OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN SWITZERLAND

Concert organized to mark Lithuania’s National Day

*Musicians*  
Skaidra Jančaitė (soprano), Raminta Dombrowski (piano)

*Programme*  

*Date*  
13 February 2003

*Venue*  
Palais des Nations, Hall XIV

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Aiman Mussakhodzajeva (violin), accompanied by Hans Jörg Fink (piano)

*Programme*  
G. Tartini, J. Brahms, P. Tchaïkovski, C. Saint-Saëns, G. Bizet/Waxman

*Date*  
11 March 2003

*Venue*  
Palais des Nations, Hall XIV
### PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN GENEVA

**Alon Goldstein, piano**

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Programme</strong></th>
<th>F. Schubert, R. Yedidia, L. van Beethoven, C. Debussy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>13 March 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
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### PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

**Concert of chamber music**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Musicians</strong></th>
<th>Sergeï Khachatryan (violin), Eva Arootunyan (piano), Susanne Matthe (violin), Lusine Khachatryan (piano), Vahagn Aristakesyan (viola), Mikayel Hakhnazaryan (cello)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programme</strong></td>
<td>A. Babajanian, R. Schumann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>30 April 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
<td>Palais des Nations, Hall XIV</td>
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### PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN GENEVA

**Tel Aviv Trio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Musicians</strong></th>
<th>Jonathan Aner (piano), Matan Givol (violin), Ira Givol (cello)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Programme</strong></td>
<td>J. Haydn, B. Yusupov, E. Chausson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>26 June 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Venue</strong></td>
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**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA**

*Russian muses calling the world. A concert of 19th-century Russian vocal and piano music*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musicians</th>
<th>Alexei Mochalov (double bass), Maria Barankina (piano), Alexis Golovin (piano)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme</td>
<td><em>Anthology of Russian chamber music, I. Moussorgski (1839-1881)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>10 July 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Palais des Nations, Hall XIV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA**

*Winners of the Gorovets competition 2003*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musicians</th>
<th>Naria Nogi, Olexandre Chugay and Timur Scherbakov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>18 September 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Palais des Nations, Hall XIV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA**

*Concert by the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musicians</th>
<th>Anastassia Manenko (domra), I. Chkourindina (piano), Lucas Guenuchas (piano), Justine Rollet (violin)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>20 November 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Palais des Nations, Hall XIV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Piano recital by Revital Hachamoff

**Programme**  | C. Debussy, L. van Beethoven, R. Shapira and F. Chopin.
---|---
**Date**  | 27 November 2003
**Venue**  | Palais des Nations, Hall XIV

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Venezuela’s tribute to world peace

**Musicians**  | Soloists: Domingo García, Victor Vivas and Johanna Anglade.
Accompanied by an orchestra of young Venezuelan musicians who have studied in Switzerland, and with the participation of the choir La Croche Chœur from Ville-la-Grand (Haute-Savoie, France), under the direction of Frank Rodriguez-Freites.

---|---
**Date**  | 11 December 2003
**Venue**  | Palais des Nations, Hall XIV

Two additional concerts were organized in Egypt, on 19 February 2003, as part of a musical exchange between the Geneva Chamber Orchestra and the Cairo Opera Orchestra. The first concert took place in the Cairo Opera, the second in Alexandria. Both concerts were supported by the United Nations Office at Geneva, as part of the programme for the Dialogue among Civilizations. On the occasion of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations, The Republic and Canton of Geneva, the City of Geneva and the Foundation of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, hosted a concert on 24 October, 2003. The concert was held at the Victoria Hall by the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, conducted by Lawrence Foster. The programme consisted of La Création (Chaos) by Joseph Haydn, the Valse de l’Empereur by Johann Strauss, the Symphonie No. 78 en do mineur by Joseph Haydn, and Les 7 Péchés Capitaux by Kurt Weill.
III. TALKS

Four cultural talks were organized in 2003, all on subjects related to the work of the Organization. Of particular importance was the talk organized in conjunction with the exhibition on the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

The speaker underlined what had already been said by those who had spoken so eloquently at the opening of the exhibition *The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: Challenging impunity*. Also very interesting was the round table discussion organized jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on *The international protection of Refugees: from the Nansen Office to the UNHCR*. A talk that touched more directly on cultural issues was the one given by Her Excellency Ms. Arta Dade, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Albania, who described Albania’s cultural policy and underlined the importance of promoting culture within the area of foreign relations. The fourth talk was on the influence of Jewish culture and families on the history of Lithuania, and was given by the extremely knowledgeable Director of the Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum, Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA (ICTR)

*Impunity, national reconciliation and protection of victims and witnesses*

Discussion chaired by the President of the Tribunal, Judge Navanethem Pillay

**With the participation of**
- Bertrand G. Ramcharan, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Valentine Rugwabiza, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Antoine Mindua Kesia-Mbe, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations Office at Geneva
- Roland Amoussouga, Chief, External Relations and Strategic Planning Section, ICTR.

**Date** 19 March 2003

**Venue** Palais des Nations, Room XX
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Albania and cultural diversity
Talk given by Her Excellency Ms. Arta Dade, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Albania

Date  8 April 2003
Venue  Palais des Nations, Room XII

PERMANENT MISSION OF LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN SWITZERLAND AND THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN GENEVA

A vanished world - the experience of European reunification: 700 years of Jewish contribution to Lithuania
Talk given by Emanuelis Zingeris, Director of the Vilna Gaon Jewish Museum and Tolerance Centre, Vilnius

Date  10 June 2003
Venue  Palais des Nations, Cinema Room XIV

LIBRARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
The international protection of refugees: from the Nansen Office to the UNHCR Round table discussion led by Vincent Chétail, Graduate Institute of International Studies (IUHEI), Geneva

Date  7 July 2003
Venue  Palais des Nations, Room IX
IV. FILM FESTIVALS

Two festivals of non-documentary film were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2003. The first, in May, was organized by the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China, while the second, in November, was organized by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea. Both festivals lasted a week, with one film each day. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda gave a single showing of a documentary film on the work of the Tribunal.

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT GENEVA IN SWITZERLAND

Chinese Film Festival

Programme

- *Postmen in the Mountains*, 1998, by Huo Jianqi
- *Together*, 2002, by Chen Kaige
- *Heavenly Grassland*, 2002, by Mai Lisi and Sai Fu
- *A Marriage Certificate*, 2001, by Huang Jianxin

Dates 12-16 May 2003

Venue Palais des Nations, Cinema, Room XIV
Korean Film Festival

Programme

A Peppermint Candy, 1999, by Lee Chang-dong
Green Fish, 1997, by Lee Chang-dong
My Sassy Girl, 2001, by Kwak Jae-yong
The Power of Kangwon Province, 1998, by Hong Sang-soo
White Badge, 1992, by Jeong Ji-Young

Date 10-14 November 2003
Venue Palais des Nations, Cinema, Room XIV

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA (ICTR)

Justice today, peace tomorrow

A new film, directed and produced by the ICTR, “Justice Today, Peace Tomorrow” - The first of its kind - is about the operational challenges that the ICTR has faced since its creation under United Nations Security Council resolution 955 (1994), challenges which have now been dealt with successfully.

Date 18 March 2003
Venue Palais des Nations, Room XX
V. OTHER EVENTS

Occasionally, Member States or international organizations ask to organize cultural events with the official support of UNOG, but outside the Palais des Nations. There are many reasons for such requests: technical requirements, for example, can be met more easily by professional theatres such as the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices or Victoria Hall, which frequently stage such events, but it may also be that the organizer prefers to attract a larger and wider audience from among the general public in Geneva. This section will also cover events organized by the Cultural Activities Committee at the Palais des Nations, but which do not fall into the categories previously mentioned.

PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WITH HEADQUARTERS IN SWITZERLAND AND THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Commemoration of Franco-German cooperation: 40th Anniversary of the Signing of the Elysée Treaty, 1963; exhibition and video showing The Elysée Treaty

On 22 January 1963, General de Gaulle and Chancellor Adenauer signed a treaty of cooperation to set the seal on reconciliation between France and the Federal Republic of Germany.

In the “shared statement” which accompanied the Treaty, they affirmed their conviction “that reconciliation of the German and French population constitutes an historic event which profoundly transforms the relations between the two nations” and that “a reinforcement of the cooperation between the two countries is an indispensable stage on the way to a united Europe”.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>22 January 2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Palais des Nations, Hall XIV</td>
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Vitality and serenity. Music and dance by the Seoul Metropolitan Dance Theatre

Throughout history, dance has been a powerful means of expression. Ritual dance expresses the Korean people’s reverence for nature and their ancestors, while Buddhist dance honours the Buddha and the pursuit of truth. Court dance expresses the aesthetics of the aristocracy, while folk dance moves with the passion of the common people. Korean dance is characterized by economy of action and improvisation.

Typical movements include walking on the heel and the turning in of the heels; raising the body gently and lightly from the bent knee position; slight vibrations from the hips up; and pulses from the shoulders. The most distinctive of movements is the suspended position, with the dancer balancing on one foot while the other moves with a deep sense of ecstatic power.

The Seoul Metropolitan Dance Theatre, led by Lee Hong-ei, was founded in 1974 to promote Korean culture and art abroad through displays of Korean dance worldwide. The troupe has presented more than 500 performances of traditional Korean dance at home and abroad, emphasizing the spirit of Korea and the profound nature of traditional Korean life. Dr. Lee Hong-ei, the Dance Theatre’s director, is herself an accomplished performer and teacher. She took up dance at an early age, and has been the principal dancer in productions such as the Korean National Dance Theatre’s Low Tide. She has also taught dance at Sung Kyun Kwan University.

Date  20 June 2003
Venue  Bâtiment des Forces Motrices, Geneva
Interagency Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), 2004

The consolidated appeal process for 2004 was launched in Geneva on 19 November 2003, with an evening on the theme “Hear our voices”, at the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices. With this event, organized by the host country through its Permanent Mission, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), coordinator of the appeal process for 10 years, wished to underline the importance of the United Nations Member States’ financial support for programmes of humanitarian assistance led by the different United Nations agencies and partner organizations.

Launched in New York by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, on 18 November 2003, several European cities followed suit. In Geneva, Switzerland invited the international community and the public at large to an evening of speeches and music by the multicultural group Zap Mama. An exhibition of work by artists from many parts of the world, selected from the art collection of the United Nations Office at Geneva, was set up in the theatre lobby to show the varied cultural origins of the people of the 21 countries for whom CAP 2004 was launched.

Date | 19 November 2003
Venue | Bâtiment des Forces Motrices, Geneva
Since 1955, the Nansen Award has honoured those who have done outstanding work to further the cause of refugees. Named after Fridtjof Nansen, the League of Nations’ first High Commissioner for Refugees, the award was established to focus on refugees’ cause and promote the development of refugee assistance.

Nansen was a scientist, statesman and pioneer of large-scale humanitarian assistance to refugees. In August 1921, the League of Nations created the post of High Commissioner for Refugees especially for him, and he held that post until his death in 1930. A significant development took place in 1922, the year that saw the creation of the Nansen passport, the first internationally recognized document defining the status of refugees. This landmark document restored safety, dignity and hope to its holder. The same year, Nansen received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Geneva, as the birthplace of humanitarian law and the major conventions, was the logical choice for the 2003 ceremony. Mr. Pascal Couchepin, President of the Swiss Confederation, underlined by his presence the importance Switzerland attaches to the historical and contemporary dimensions of the refugee issue, and he stressed the continuing support his Government brings to United Nations efforts to alleviate the suffering of refugees.

As repository of the League of Nations archives, and in particular of the Nansen Archival Collection, it was appropriate for the UNOG Library to be involved in the preparation of this special issue. The UNHCR request also coincided with a project on the preservation of the Nansen Archival Collection financed by Norway’s Fritt Ord (Freedom of Expression Foundation), and supported by the National Archives of Norway.
Libraries and librarians have historically played an important role in the creation, collection, organization and dissemination of information and knowledge, taking the lead in efforts to guarantee free access to information. They help promote cultural and linguistic diversity by building up extensive collections of documents in different languages, and reflecting a range of cultures and opinions. Thus libraries have a key role to play in the move towards an information society, and particularly in narrowing the digital divide.

The libraries of the United Nations and the United Nations system play a unique role in helping to make the world aware of the efforts of the Organizations they serve, and how to learn from them. The meticulous and selective conservation of documentation plays a central role in establishing the institutional memory of the Organization. The libraries of the United Nations and the United Nations system are institutional libraries with responsibility for maintaining the historical perspective of the programmes and projects of the Organization.
VII. WORKS OF ART DONATED TO UNOG IN 2003

UNOG’s art collection is an important component of its cultural activities programme. Established in 1919 at the same time as the League of Nations, the collection now boasts over 1,000 items. The recent opening up of the cultural activities programme, which has made it possible for artists from over the whole world to exhibit their work, has undoubtedly benefited the collection, for it is not uncommon for Member States to want to leave a reminder of their exhibition in the form of an art donation; although the initiative sometimes comes directly from the artist concerned. The work chosen is in many cases one whose subject in some way reflects the work and the aims of the Organization, which means that, by now, not only does the collection represent a great number of different cultures, it also expresses, through the visual languages of the artists, the values of the United Nations.

Twelve United Nations Member States made direct or indirect contributions to the permanent art collection of the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2003: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Five of these Member States, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic, Singapore, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, had not previously been represented in the collection.

Out of 23 donations, 21 were made following an exhibition of the artist’s work at the Palais des Nations. In the majority of cases, the authorization of the Permanent Mission organizing the event was sought, in order to ensure that donations were not made against the wishes of Member States. One member State, Azerbaijan, marked the visit of the country’s President by donating a work of art: a painting showing the old city centre of Baku. Another noteworthy donation was a stained-glass window made by ESCAPE, an association which organizes artistic projects for the benefit of retired people in England.

Finally, one of the works donated, calligraphy by the Singaporean artist Tan Swie Hian, was actually made at the opening of the exhibition.