

MARHABA! / WELCOME!

Date: 26 November – 22 December 2010

MARHABA! / Welcome! to the nomad camp created by artists in solidarity with the Saharan people. The Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC) welcomes a gathering of “haimas” (traditional Bedouin tents) to the patio of the museum, where music, visual art, historical documentation and solidarity movements aim to make visible the historical and cultural dimensions of a forgotten conflict: that of the Western Sahara, the only colony in Africa which still remains without independence.

The project, coordinated by Alonso Gil and Federico Guzman, curators of ARTifariti 2010, brings together the efforts of the *Encuentros Internacionales de Arte en Territorios Liberados* (International Art Encounters in the Liberated Territories) of Western Sahara. This experimental festival in the desert was organised by the AAPS (*Asociación de Amistad con el Pueblo Saharaui*, Friendship Association with the Saharan People) in Seville and The Ministry of Culture of the *Saharan Arab Democratic Republic*. Over the last four years it has relied upon the participation of more than 150 artists of 20 different nationalities.

To make this initiative known, works from Saharan artists and documentation regarding ARTifariti is displayed, alongside a further parallel exhibition on the history of Western Sahara. Art is a tool which transforms. However, it is not charged with violence, as is a steam roller which flattens the curvature of the horizon. As Sukeina Ali Taleb says, Art is a tool which is "subtle, well-aimed, which opens doors." Above all, within oneself.

Slotting into the exhibition session *About the Spectator*, this project—previously presented during Madrid’s *White Nights* event—participates in and promotes some of the axes of said session, particularly the one based on relational systems, plus the one that emphasizes intelligence and collective action.