

'Available Light' at the end of the tunnel (from Daily Times Pakistan, November 6, 2009

By Umair Aziz LAHORE: 'Available Light', a photographic exhibition featuring the work of six internationally renowned artists, opened at the Alhamra Art Gallery on Thursday. The photographs on display depicted political and social injustices faced by people of different nationalities in different parts of the world. The photographs explored various contemporary themes of changing identities and cultures in a global world. Talking to Daily Times, curator Dr Maureen Korp said these artists were 'truth tellers' who were trying to get the message of peace to the people of Pakistan through their art. She said the artists sympathised with the people of Pakistan, who suffered much after the 9/11 attacks, and this sympathy shone through in their work. Commenting on the work of Norman Takeuchi, she said his pieces reflected the injustice done to Canadians of Japanese origin after the Second World War. She said they were persecuted without any charge and through no fault of their own. **Another artist,**



Sandra Hawkins, had merged photography with the written word in a collage of landscapes from different parts of the world. In her work, she has merged light in the Arctic with the light in New York, trying to link different cultures through the 'bonds of nature'. Korp said it was the artists' call to the

world: change the world and save lives. Cecile Boucher, a Canadian artist had made an important donation of her work to the permanent collection of the Lahore Arts Council. According to the administration, the donation is valued at \$90,000. Her work explores one of the most concerning themes in the current world, which is becoming a melting pot. Different individuals have been photographed from the back and all of them are trying to find a place either on the map or simply having a look at life from different angles. These individuals are wearing different hats, representing different cultures all being part of one life yet maintaining their own identities.