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Broomfield show remembers, looks forward in Rwanda

Audi exhibit documents tragedy, efforts to move ahead

By **Dylan Otto Krider** Enterprise Staff Writer
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A photo of a Rwandan mother and child that is part of the A Microcosm of the Changing Face of Africa, an exhibit of Rwanda photographs and art installation by Catherine Carilli on display through Aug. 6, 2010 at the Broomfield Auditorium. (Picasa 2.6)

What: "A Microcosm of the Changing Face of Africa," an exhibit of Rwanda photographs and art installation
When: Opening reception from 4 to 6 p.m. July 22; exhibit can be viewed from 2 to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays through Aug. 6 and during events at the Auditorium
Where: Broomfield Auditorium Gallery, 3 Community Park Road
Information: 720-887-2371 or www.catherinecarilli.com

Equating photography with remembering is nothing new. Eastman Kodak actively pushed the association with slogans like, "We capture your memories forever." So it's only natural a Rwandan exhibit that documents, among other things, the Rwandan genocide in 1994, should be a photography show.

When artist Catherine Carilli got the opportunity to travel Rwanda, documenting the many "living memorials" there, she collected photos, which she has put on display in the Broomfield Auditorium Gallery.

When a colleague, Colleen Taugher at the University of Washington, asked her if she'd like to join her in doing some work for the educational system, Carilli jumped at the chance, and documented her experiences.

Two-thirds of the photographs depict the warmth of the people she met.

The last third is devoted to the memorials to the ethnic cleansing that killed 800,000 Tutsis that, like the Holocaust, the Rwandans have vowed to "remember" and "never forget." But like Germany, they, too, have tried to move on, and Carilli was struck by what appeared to be an earnest desire for unity. After a week, she could see that underneath the outward calls for unity, there is "still a lot of pain among the Tutsis, and still anger from the Hutus."

Instead of cleaning up and restoring the sites of some of the bloodshed, "living memorials" left the locations -- often churches -- burned to the ground or riddled with bullet holes, bits of bone, blood and remnants of clothing.

"It was very powerful to see," Carilli said.

What particularly drove the point home was that tour guides at the three memorials she visited all had some personal connection to the massacre.

"It's so moving when you're there, to hear from someone who knows," she said.

Often portrayed as an ancient ethnic rivalry, the animosity between the Hutus and Tutsis was exacerbated by colonialism; it is debated whether the Hutus and Tutsis even constitute different ethnic groups. German colonizers played the groups off of each other, and when the Belgians took control after World War I, they greatly promoted the Tutsis as the ruling class, even going so far as to issue ethnic



identity cards. When Rwanda obtained self-rule in 1962, the Hutu majority was able to turn the tables. It was not until the 1990s that

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This photo, taken in Kigali, is part of Catherine Carilli's exhibit of Rwandan photographs and art on display at the Broomfield Auditorium through Aug. 6 (Picasa 2.6)

festering resentments came to the fore, when the Rwandan Patriotic Front, made up of mostly Tutsi refugees, invaded from Uganda, starting a civil war.

The war ended in stalemate, but the genocide broke out after Juvénal Habyarimana's plane was shot down on April 6, 1994.

For the installation at the Auditorium, Carilli created a kind of Hollywood set faade of a church, with broken windows, shoes and some of the items she had seen on the floor. Photos of some of the places hang on the wall nearby.

Broomfield Cultural Affairs manager Karen Gerrity said she stumbled on a short video about Carilli's trip to Rwanda on Carilli's Facebook page.

"The video was compelling and inspired me to learn more about her artwork and the story it tells about this country and its people," she said.

She then brought the exhibit to Broomfield for residents to see.

"It's not all depressing," Carilli said of the show.

Though people should always remember what happened, it also is important to see how they've managed to adapt and move on, she said. "We need to be more globally aware ... we need to be reminded of some of our frailties."

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