Remembering Nelson Mandela: From South Africa to Chapel Hill

An exhibit of sketches, narratives, and photographs documenting the global struggle for human and civil rights.

FedEx Global Education Center

“Remembering Nelson Mandela: From South Africa to Chapel Hill” underscores the connections and parallels between South Africa’s anti-apartheid struggle, the history of civil rights activism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the growing global consciousness about human and civil rights.

In “My Robben Island I” and “My Robben Island II,” a series of charcoal and pastel sketches, the late Nelson Mandela revisits his 27 years of political imprisonment, 18 of which were spent on Robben Island in the Republic of South Africa. Limited-edition lithograph prints of these sketches and Mandela’s artist’s narrative are on display.

The exhibit also features University archival material, focusing primarily on the local history of civil disobedience, civil rights, and anti-apartheid movements on campus and in Chapel Hill between 1963 and 1990, the same 27 years Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

KEYNOTE LECTURE AND RECEPTION | FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2015 FROM 6 TO 8 P.M.
James and Florence Peacock Atrium, FedEx Global Education Center, 301 Pittsboro Street, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

A free public reception and exhibit viewing will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by a keynote lecture at 7:00 p.m. by Hunt Davis, professor emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Florida and African Studies scholar who specializes in South Africa and South African political history.

This exhibit is co-sponsored by the African Studies Center and Global Relations, with support from the Department of African, African American, and Diaspora Studies, Honors Carolina, the Institute of African American Research, and the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History. Special thanks to the Southern Historical Collection at Wilson Library and to Jim Wallace for their help in curating University archival material.