

OCCUPATION AND RESISTANCE

AMERICAN IMPRESSIONS OF THE INTIFADA

ALTERNATIVE MUSEUM May 5-June 30, 1990



Yong Soon Min

Two States Now 1990.
120 x 36 x 1 inch.
Mixed Media Sculpture.

"The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress."

—*Frederick Douglass*

(1817-1895)

The profound verity of this pronouncement by an African American abolitionist bears relevance not only to the context of racism and slavery of Douglass's time and place here in our nation, but wherever a group of people are systematically oppressed and denied their full rights as humans and as a political entity by another group. My understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from its very inception to its current developments leads me to conclude that no amount of further escalation of repressive measures undertaken by the Israeli government will crush the Intifada or diminish the will and the resolute determination of Palestinians in their struggle for justice and independent statehood.

Like most visitors to the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, I was greatly impressed by the collective consciousness of a sense of purpose evident among the Palestinians of all background whom I met. This proactive and highly disciplined resistance to Israeli military rule is derived from painful lessons learned from over 50 years of struggle—that Palestinians cannot rely on the actions or the largess of anyone other than themselves to bring about change. Here again, I quote Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will. If there is no struggle, there is no progress." As the Intifada enters its third year, the Palestinian legacy of endurance against all odds lives on stronger than ever.

Yong Soon Min
1990

** Black American patriot*