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AP PHOTOS: Egyptian fishing town hosts wall art festival

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BURULLUS, Egypt (AP) — For the third successive year, an Egyptian fishing town has hosted a unique art festival that attracts participants from home and abroad.

The annual event in Burullus injects life and color into the town of about 100,000 residents. Artist Abdel-Wahab Abdel-Mohsen, whose non-profit organization is behind the festival, says its objective is to communicate art directly to the townspeople and visitors.

“Forty enthusiastic visual artists from 13 countries have volunteered to change the face of the town and raise

awareness of beauty and a clean environment,” Abdel-Mohsen told The Associated Press in Burullus, a lakeside town linked to the Mediterranean Sea through a narrow strait.

During the festival, Abdel-Mohsen says the town becomes a “touristic attraction with its colored homes and a great view on the Burullus lake.”

The town offers individual artists different experiences.

Egyptian artist and first-time participant Riham el-Saadany painted a small wall next to a grocery store she said was mostly frequented by children.

“I decided to draw a portrait for my daughter Lily, and create a background of water, fish and bubbles,” she said.

Portuguese artist Paulina Evaristo said her painting dealt with the inner beauty of women, love and God, and that the reaction among Burullus residents was “very positive.”

“They identified with the painting and the idea of beauty as reflected on the wall is now part of their knowledge,” she said.

Another participant, Mikica Trujkanovik from Macedonia, said she was instantly inspired by the smiles of the town’s children who followed her everywhere she went. “When I saw the magic of Burullus and the painted walls on my first day, I knew I was in the right place,” she said.

Here is a series of photos by Amr Nabil.

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