

An art festival was held on of all things Bihar, India



“Wall Art Festival in Niranjana School 2010”

It realized the sustainable intangible support for children of Bihar.

“HAMARA TYOUHAR !”

हमारा त्यौहार !

“MY FESTIVAL!”

Wall Art Project Team
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1, HAMARA TYOUHAR !

What was the important matter is “this festival is our festival”

Many people who know about India would be surprised by an art festival being held of all things on Bihar’s situation!?

It is said India is developing for IT. Bihar is the state where it is one of the poorest and has big gap among the people. There are studies that show that 50% of Bihar’s population is illiterate. Especially in rural areas, it is the fact the public education is left and infrastructure is not maintained so well. The house wives cook by oven made from soil, and use gobal (dung of cow) as fuel. It is impressive to see the figure of the ladies who stand on the affectionately known “brown land” and how they work as well. The Wall Art Festival (WAF) was held at Niranjana Public Welfare School, the private elementary school in Sujata village in Bihar where the previously described situation is apparent. WAF was held over 3 days (20th, 21st, 22nd of February 2010) as non-profit festival.

“HAMARA TYOUHAR” means “MY FESTIVAL” in Hindi. “WAF in Niranjana School” is the festival which was handmade and made by the people who live there. Right from the beginning, the local people found a sense of pride and enthusiasm for their festival in their “brown land”, which lead to the success of the event.

For example, we organized a competition for a leaflet in the art school in Gaya town. The village people voted for the competition to decide the best. The children made the signboard, the local youth and Japanese volunteer members advertised in village. This is also one of the model cases of sustainable support from oversea not as tangible but as intangible.

2. About “WAF in Niranjana School”



Niranjana School was presented the school building by 50 Japanese students in 2007. The beginning of WAF was to facilitate that we could do something by using the white wall of school.

The Japanese artist Yusuke Asai came to India with

special feeling. He took 7 kinds of soil, gobal, and water from Sujata village after which he made colors with these ingredients.

He drew mud paint for 10 days inside of the class room, also on roof.

The Children of Niranjana also got involved and helped Yusake Asai. 80 students stamped their hand-print on the wall with their wish for future as sign. Then, those hand-prints became the character of wall art.

While he was making, he enjoyed the collaboration with children more than with any other contributors.

Adding to the work shop of hand-print for mud painting, he also did another work shop of masking-bird (masking-tape birds). They now decorate the school building.



Yusuke Asai http://www.arataniurano.com/artists/asai_yusuke/

(Photo © Junai Nakagawa)



On the other hand, Ms. Sreejata Roy participated as the Indian artist. She is known by community art in parks etc. Although she was ill, she drew the contrast of scenery between rural side and city side powerfully by acrylic paint.

Sreejata Roy

<http://parkdpuri.blogspot.com/2009/01/as-artist-with-particular-interest-in.html>

(Photo © Akiko Ookuni)

3. The 3 purposes of “WAF in Niranjana School”

- 1) We want to convey to children of Bihar the power of art.
- 2) We want people of all over the world to become aware children and villagers of Bihar and the issues they face. We want to achieve this through the communication of the people and the media who came to WAF. By getting attention from outside, we want to activate and connect to the development of education and infrastructure in rural side.
- 3) After 2 years, we have view that the local Indian people would govern and continue WAF independently.

4. The surprise of “WAF 2010”

We set up the exhibition room in which the slide show of children’s pictures from around the world played. We received Mr. Koichi Nakatani(<http://www.seedman333.org/>) who is known as “Seed man” and is famous for plantation. He planted a nursery of Buddh tree as a watcher in Dunmuri village also apart of WAF.

Additionally, one concert was held by JAQUWA(<http://www.jaquwa.jp>) who composes the music by Saxophone and Koto(Japanese traditional instrument). He, a Sitar player, and a tabla player did a session under the stars, and Mr. Asai also painted with mud-paint on the wall behind them. The wonderful concert intoxicated all of the audience.

5. The result of “WAF 2010”



More than 4000 of people came for 3 days.

Of course the family members of the students at Niranjana (300 students), some families came by car from Gaya, and 200 children came from 10 km away from Niranjana School without shoes, and many mothers came who hold their babies in their arm. On 22nd many students came who belong to government school from another village. Also some Japanese people who live in Delhi came.

More than 20

Japanese volunteers came from Japan came from the start of preparations. Some newspapers, “AAJ”, ”DAINIK JAGRAN”, “RASTASAHARA”, ”PRABHAT KHABAR” and a Japanese newspaper ”ASAHI”, picked up WAF,

“AB THAK”, and another 2 TV broadcaster also did a piece on WAF.

Although questionnaires are not common here, the questionnaire we conducted through the corporation of Scout produced these results; that 472 of “Accha laga”, 28 of “Thik laga”, and no “nahin thik laga”.

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