

Wall Art Festival in Niranjana School 2011

“An annual art festival takes place in Bihar, India.”

हमारा त्यौहार ! “HAMARA TYOHAR !”

“OUR FESTIVAL!”

Art is the driving force behind a new co-operation between
Indian villagers and the world.

Planning paper



Presented by **Wall Art Project** – a Japanese volunteer unit

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22/07/2010

Wall Art Festival – Niranjana School 2011

DATE

19th – 21st February, 2011

LOCATION

Niranjana School, Sujata Village, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar, INDIA

ARTISTS

Yusuke Asai

Ichiro Endo

N.S.Harsha

Raj Kumar Paswan

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER Junai Nakagawa

OFFICIAL INTERPRETER Akio Sugimoto

ORGANIZER Wall Art Project

“Akiko Ookuni, Kazunori Hamao”

About Wall Art Festival at Niranjana School

This story begins with 50 Japanese university students who donated the funds for a new school building in a rural Indian village. This school is Niranjana Public Welfare School, situated in Sujata village, Bihar.

The school was established by village youths in response to a poor education system in the region.

As results of time and hard work by the teachers, the number of students attending Niranjana is increasing yearly.

At the beginning of the study year in 2010, around 400 students study with the school from nursery to class 7.

Accompanying the school is a hostel style orphanage that houses, feeds and cares for 22 boys.

In the past few years the school has come along in leaps and bounds, however, it is costly to run school of such scale. The school is currently funded by random overseas donations, which can be unreliable and can't guarantee a stable future or growth of the school.

In efforts to convey the problems and improve the situation at Niranjana, an annual art festival has been born.

The characteristic white walls of the school are used for the art.

The essence of the festival is the white wall. With this, anything is possible and creation can begin.

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2010 hosted the first of these festivals. A member of the Art Festival Project got local people involved in 2009 and with their help, developed a management system for the festival. Another project member negotiated to get renowned artists to participate as well as corporate support and funding. In total 20 Japanese volunteers enabled the festival to run with the help of 30 Indian staff from the school.

On the day more than 4000 people attended the festival, over three days in February.

It's hoped that next year's festival will be just as successful.

The 3 purposes of Wall Art Festival at Niranjana School

- 1) We want to show the power of art to the children of Bihar.
- 2) We want people worldwide to become aware of issues faced by Bihari villagers and children. We aim to do this through word of mouth and media communications via festival attendees. Ultimately we want to activate development of education and infrastructure in rural India.
- 3) After two years, we would like the local Indian people to independently govern and run the Wall Art Festival (WAF).

About Wall Art Festival in Niranjana School, 2010

We invited Japanese artist Yusuke Asai and Indian artist Sreejata Roy.

Yusuke Asai took 7 kinds of soil, gobal and water from Sujata village after which he made colors with these ingredients. The Children of Niranjana also got involved and helped Yusake Asai. 80 students stamped their hand-print on the wall as a sign of their wish for future. These hand-prints became the characters of wall art.

Sreejata Roy drew the contrast of scenery between rural land and city scape, seen powerfully by acrylic paint.

Through the cooperation of the local Scouts and Guides, a questionnaire was performed to get feedback from the visitors to the festival. 472 of a total 500 responses were of “Achha laga” (Very good), the remaining 28 said “Thik laga” (good). There were zero negative responses!

Four Indian newspapers and three Japanese newspapers reported on the WAF.

Three Indian TV broadcasters also featured WAF.

Many great things were achieved through the festival in 2010. Local people discovered the new value of lands close to them, some students now aspire to explore art in their lives, one student exclaiming “I want to be an artist!” and the international cooperation of WAF have put the power of art to account in Japan through over 10 reports performed by the project team. Many people were made happy on the day, and most of all the message was sent to the world of wonderful Bihar and the challenges its people face in daily life.

Since the festival, sewing of donated plants has begun and books and films of the day are being distributed. The art in the school will be erased in July in preparation for next year. The children will participate in the removal of the art with a small celebration of their own.



Yusuke Asai [mud painting “Forest of Promise”]

All of the walls in classroom Length 6.3m × Width 4.15m × Height 3.1m



Sreejata Roy [Untitled]

3walls in classroom Length 6.3m × Width 4.15m × Height 3.1m

Artists from Japan and India will take part in WAF 2nd as well as 2010

Artists of WAF 2011

Yusuke Asai

He who drew all of a wall in a class room, including the ceiling, by soil taken from fields decided to take part in the festival for the second time.

[Selected Solo Exhibitions]

2010 “Shopping”, Mitsubishi Artium, Fukuoka, Japan

2009 “Gura Gura no Iwa”, graf media gm, Osaka, Japan

[Selected Group Exhibitions and Projects]

2010 “Small Paintings”, ARATANIURANO, Tokyo, Japan

“New World”, island Chiba, Japan

“Wall Art Festival”, Niranjana School, Bihar, India

2009 “Jikan no Hana ten-Time Blossoms”, Kogane Studio in Koganecho, Yokohama, Japan

“Choujya-machi Project 2009”, Choujya-machi area, Nagoya, Japan

“City_net Asia 2009”, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea

“The 4th Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale 2009 - LIVE AND LET LIVE”, Fukuoka, Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

“Art every day!!”, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Japan

2008 “KITA!! Japanese Artists Meet Indonesia”, Jogja National Museum, Indonesia

[Awards]

“Ohara Museum of Art Award”, Committee for the Exhibition “VOCA 2009”, Tokyo

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

Ichiro Endo

Mr. Endo is a future artist. He owns his own car and travels all around Japan. He serialize “for Love and Peace and Future” on contemporary art note.

[Selected Solo Exhibitions and Participants]

2010 Expo2010sculpture project “FUTURE DRAGON SHANGHAI BIG SKY KITE”, Shanghai Normal University,

China

“Art Fair Tokyo” ,Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo

“WAKUWAKU BEPPU TOWER” ,Beppu Tower ,Oita , Japan

“NEW WORLD”, island, Chiba, Japan

2009-2010 “For Love, For Peace and For Future”, Contemporary Art Center, ART TOWER MITO, Ibaragi)

2009 “Twist and Shout – Contemporary Art from Japan” BACC, Bangkok, Thailand

“Super Canvas”, FARM by hiromiyoshii , Tokyo, Japan

<http://www.goforfuture.com/>

N.S.Harsha

N.S. Harsha lives and works in Mysore, India, also works worldwide. The solo exhibition “Leftovers, Maison Hermes” in Japan 2008 is new memorably. His various works, drawing based on traditional miniature of India, art works with community, large-scale installation make up with children is noticed well.

[Selected Solo Exhibitions and Participants]

2009 “Sharjah Biennale” , UAE

2008 “Artes Mundi 3, National Museum Cardiff, Wales, UK”

“Leftovers, Maison Hermes”, Tokyo and Osaka, Japan. (Solo)

“Chalo India, Mori Art Museum”, Tokyo, Japan

2002 “2nd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial, Fukuoka, Japan”

[Awards]

The 3rd Artes Mundi Prize

Raj Kumar Paswan

He is one of Mithila painter. He lives and works in Madhubani, Bihar. He has been drawing the Mithila painting by using the skill came down for generations for 25years.

[Selected Solo Exhibitions and Participants]

2007 “Uddan Public” Hauz Khas, New Delhi, India

2006 “Daskari Hasth Samiti”, Koyambator, Bangalore, India

2005 “Craft Bazar”, Bhuvnesswar, Orissa, India

2003 “Haidrabad Hatt” Haidrabad, India

2003 “Craft Bazar”, Kolkatta, India

2002 “Karnal Tourist complex”, Hariyana, India

2002 “Hotel Jams”, Kanpur, India

1998 “Bandra Recreation”, Mumbai, India

1992 “Shiv sangrahalay”, Plaggatimaidan, New Delhi, India