



LINES OF GREY

Lines of Grey is an NGO that has been started by a group of people fired by the utter conviction that:

Every child is special
Every child is unique and
Every child is an artist.

Started in Arusha, Tanzania Lines of Grey seeks to take photography to the doorsteps of marginalized children in communities around the world. When there are so many modes of communication the question that naturally pops up is 'Why photography?' Photography is, we believe, the ideal way of bringing to the world's attention the inescapable fact that children have a unique perspective. Whether children grow up in luxury, on the cold urban streets or in a denuded rural area, their take on life reflects a world in which hope is the primary element.

This is equally true among the marginalised and dispossessed as the current exhibition proves. It is important to bear in mind that all the children, whose works are featured here, have been directly affected by the poverty that is the bane of Africa.

Lines of Grey initiated an experiment with thirty street children at the CCF Centre in Arusha, Tanzania. Children were given disposable cameras and for six months they had the freedom to choose their own subjects and thus explore their world. The result is a fascinating insight into their thought processes and culture apart from providing them the joys of artistic discovery. In telling the world their stories the children have gifted us a large body of photographic work that is equally an important social-cultural documentation.

Registered in June 2007 as an NGO in India, Lines of Grey works to nurture a child's individuality, creativity and provide a platform to some very special stories that will find resonance throughout the world.

Proceeds from the sale of photographs and artwork will go back to the children for their education.

The philosophy of Lines of Grey:

(a) To give street children and children from under privileged and marginalized background an opportunity to explore their world through photography

(b) To provide a platform for these children to artistically express themselves

(c) Facilitate awareness and advocacy campaigns for a deeper understanding of child rights

We at Lines of Grey are idealistic realists. Individuals, we are convinced, still possess the power to make a difference. At the same time we believe that this change begins with the individual and one person at a time.

The official launch of Lines of Grey begins with the Photography Exhibition on January, 10, 11 & 12 at the British Council (Chennai) and in collaboration with the Association of British Scholars. The exhibition will showcase photographs taken by the children from our first project in Arusha, Tanzania. The exhibition is aimed at creating awareness about "Lines of Grey and the work that we do.

Future Projects

Lines of Grey is currently running its second photography workshop at the Juvenile Centre for Girls at Pursavakam, Chennai. We are also looking to start similar projects in other parts of India and at the Iraqi refugee centre in Cairo.

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The people behind the project

Suchitra Vijayan graduated with LLB and European Union law (Hons.) in 2004 and qualified as a Barrister with the Honorable Society of Inner Temple. Since then she has worked with the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia and the War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda. A self taught photographer, her images offer a snapshot of humanity that lives on the margins of life. Through photography she hopes to show case to the world, portraits of these unforgettable children and their inconsolable memories. Suchitra was recently awarded the prestigious “Nikon Imaging-Emerging Talent Award” for 2007 and is the founding trustee of “Lines of Grey”

Jade Pagkas-Bather graduated from Yale University in 2006 where she earned a Bachelor’s of Arts degree in Anthropology and plans to attend the University of Illinois College of Medicine in the Fall of 2008. Jade is currently researching the lives, survival skills, and communities of street youth in Arusha, Tanzania. Her intention is to learn more about street children so that she can combine her love for anthropology, youth rights, and medicine in order to conduct more in-depth research with street youth after earning her M.D.

Nachiappan Subramanian qualified as a Chartered Accountant and works with Price Waterhouse Coopers in their Assurance and Business Advisory department. When he is not crunching numbers for PWC, Nachiappan writes poetry. He has a keen interest in working with children and in child rights. He is one of the founding members and is also the treasurer.

Solomon Porres is an RJ and producer with Radio City 91.1 fm and handles the PR for Lines of Grey.

Sruthi Vijayan is a talented Viscom student with a passion for photography and arts. She heads the creatives at Lines of Grey.