



Dear friends,

As you must know, 2006 has been a year of great achievements for Art in All of Us. I invite you all to read our recently published annual report, analyzing our results for 2006.

<http://www.artinallofus.org/report2006.htm>

As a summary of the report, here follow a couple of highlights:

-**3615 children** visited in 55 countries

-Successful launch of the **AiA Pen Pal Program**

-**6 photos exhibitions** in 3 countries

-Attending one of our exhibitions in Brussels, **Princess Mathilde** honored our art works

We would also like to invite you to our new membership program for 2007. We need your help and contributions to continue develop our programs. <http://www.artinallofus.org/help.htm>

If you have some more time and wish to get directly involved with Art in All of Us, please visit our new page for volunteer workers recruitment www.artinallofus.org/volunteers.htm

We would like to continue this mailing following the children's spirit, through a medley of questions and answers sessions held during Art in All of Us visits to schools.

About Art in All of Us...

Micronesian Children: What should I do to correspond with other children of the world?

It is very easy! With the help of your teacher, you can participate to our Pen Pal program. We will put you in contact with another school in the world, where each one of your classmates will have a friend to correspond with. The basis of the exchanges is CREATIVITY... here again, you will express yourself and communicate with your pen pals through art.

Chilean Children: What kind of art can we use in the AiA Pen Pal program?

You are the artists and you can choose whatever art form you would like to express yourself with (drawings, poetry, paintings, collage etc...)

Pakistani Children: My neighbor is attending a different school. How can he participate to your activities?

Any children and schools can take part to our programs. They can directly contact us by email or fill in the online school participation form. They can also ask their teacher to do so.

<http://www.artinallofus.org/poetry.htm#participate>

Vietnamese Children: When will our art works be published online? ...Why does it take so long?

It takes a couple of months before your works can be published online. We need to follow different steps to be able to update our online galleries. First, all the poems must be translated in English before being submitted to our AiA poetry committee, which will choose the best artworks. Additionally, during our visits, we take a huge amount of photographs that must be selected, classified and archived. Each picture must be indexed with keywords and captions, in a giant library already containing over 90000 pictures. This task requires a huge amount of time.

The AiA World Art Book is a global project and we will only publish it once schools in every one of the 192 countries have participated to our programs. We estimate that 2 more years are still necessary to achieve this goal.

Uruguayan Children: How and where can I read the poetries of other children?

We are working with about 40 volunteer translators worldwide that help us translating the thousands of poems we have received. On our website, you can read them in English, Spanish and in French

Malaysian Children: Why "Art in All of Us"?

Art in All of Us was created to promote art among the children of the world. The name was chosen because: "ART" is the main communication language used for our programs; and our programs are extended to every single country recognized by the United Nations... In other words, we target "ALL" the children of these countries.

Congolese Children: How did you choose our school?

We don't have any criteria for choosing schools. As indicated in its name, Art in All of Us is for everybody... it is the corporation of all the children. We have worked in public and private schools; in rural or in urban areas; in orphanages or social centers. Our only criterion is on the age of children: that should be between 8 and 12.

Creative questions...

Syrian Children: Are the other children of the world different from us?

Children all over the world are very similar in a sense. All they want is to play, to be loved and to discover new things. Each culture and social environment does that in a different way, but they all keep this aspiration to happiness.

Gabonese children: Can white people stay in the sun for a long time?

White-skinned people suffer more easily from the sun than dark-skinned people, whose skin has more natural protection against the sun. You often see white tourists totally red at the end of the day because they were burnt by the sun... their skin is much more sensitive to sun rays.

Italian children: Why children in Africa don't wear shoes?

There are many reasons why some African children don't wear shoes:

- *It is more comfortable to go around barefoot, as the weather is hot and humid and they don't want to confine their feet in closed shoes. Some African Olympic athletes even prefer to run barefoot during races, because it is how they are used to run, and they perform much better that way.*
- *Shoes can get wet and damaged because of tropical rain ... it is better to go barefoot under the rain, or to wear plastic slippers*
- *Their parents have little money and dedicate their home budget to other priorities than shoes, such as: schooling, food,*
- *It is just more fun...*

Sao Tome children: what kind of food do the children eat in other countries?

Some children eat meat and some don't: they are vegetarian; available vegetables vary from a country to another, from a climate to another. Starchy food all-around the world is: potato (mostly in Europe), rice (mostly in Asia), pasta, different kinds of roots (cassava, yam,) (in Asia, Africa and Latin America), breadfruit (mostly in Africa and Oceania)...

Samoan Children: What would the Belgian people eat if there was a shortage of potato in Belgium?

That would be quite a crisis... ;-) however, fortunately enough, Belgium is surrounded with other countries, so I guess Belgium would import potatoes from them... or switch to other type of food (pasta, rice...)

Gabonese Children: Does (children labor) exploitation exist in Belgium?

Education is mandatory, and there are some mechanisms that allow the government to control that such form of exploitation doesn't exist, and that all the children go to school. However there may exist some, as it is impossible to ensure that 100% of the children in Belgium effectively go to school everyday, furthermore considering all the migrations that exist nowadays.

Japanese children. Do you have cars in Belgium?

Yes we have cars....we also have Japanese cars...

I can't recall any country without cars. Of course, some countries have regions where it isn't possible to use cars. But even the smallest country, the smallest island has some.

Japanese children. Do some countries have banknotes with circular shape?

Well that's a creative idea.... I don't think any central bank has had this idea before ;-). However, we have seen coins with different shapes: hexagonal shapes, and also coins with holes.

Nauruan children. Do inhabitants of each country of the world write poetry?

Well, everyone can write poetry. Some cultures have a more poetic sensibility. Some cultures maintain oral traditions... which mean that traditions and history are mainly transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth. Many of these cultures are found in Africa and in Oceania.

In Brazil we have worked with Indian children living in the Amazon; they don't use pens or pencils. However, they express themselves orally and we showed them how to translate their feelings and opinions on the paper, through art, so that other children of the world can still read them, even if they are not at an earshot from them.

About the founders

Cambodian Children: What is your preferred country?

A very difficult question that both children and adults all over the world keep asking us.... I don't think we can pick up one or two countries... especially when we spend such a short time in every country. Furthermore each country is different, and has its own attractions...

However -and keep this as a secret- ... if we had to pick only one country, it would be Brazil....

American children: What about language barriers? How do you communicate with the children in all these countries?

Art is a universal language and we are really struck by similarities between some artworks from totally different countries!

As far as everyday communication is concerned, we can speak at least 4 languages that are spread almost throughout the world because they were the former imperialist countries' languages: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. They allow us to communicate with you and other children. When such direct communication isn't possible, then we communicate through the intermediary of a friend or a teacher, who translates for us into the local language.

Thai children: Aren't you tired?

It is true that we travel at a very fast pace. However, whenever tired, children smiles, spontaneity and creativity give us the necessary energy to keep on going.

We will end this long interview with the latest update on our website:

Galleries of the Middle-East:

<http://www.artinallofus.org/countries/africa/egypt/egyptphoto1.htm>

<http://www.artinallofus.org/countries/Middle-East/jordan/jordanphoto1.htm>

<http://www.artinallofus.org/countries/Middle-East/lebanon/lebanonphoto1.htm>

Have a look at our annual report, detailing our 2006 activities:

<http://www.artinallofus.org/report2006.htm>

We have planned two new exhibitions in Rome and in Brussels
<http://www.artinallofus.org/exhibitions.htm>

You can read new press articles on:
<http://www.artinallofus.org/press.htm>

Over the next 3 months we will visit the following countries. Any contact in those countries that might be able to lodge us, or help identifying a primary school will be of great help:

Hungary
Cyprus
Latvia
Lithuania
Belarus
Poland
Slovakia
Austria
Moldavia
Serbia
Bulgaria
Macedonia
Albania
Montenegro
Bosnia
Ireland
Denmark
Sweden (MALMO)

Safe travels,

Anthony and Stéphanie

