

art braille kanthari



kanthari through the eyes of an artist

Charity Auction Catalog // 7. November 2017



Sotheby's Auctioneer: Stefan Puttaert
Director of Sotheby's Zürich

kanthari Foundation Switzerland
in cooperation with Joseph Pisani



«Let the Kids Play» KR Raja is unstoppable, like Superman adorned with crutches instead of a red cape. Maneuvering the difficult dirt paths didn't slow him, despite being disabled by polio. We visited countless families that lit up in his presence. His project, GNE, helps these children pay for school, participate in sports, and spend a bit more time on being a kid, rather than worrying about funds for food and education. Since most of the children have fathers that are serving life in prison, happiness and smiles were otherwise far too rare. // Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu

// GNE, Global Network for Equality, founded by KR Raja (kanthari Alumni 2013), focuses on the children of prisoners in India. GNE seeks to provide quality accommodation, care, support and also education by placing the children in appropriate learning institutions as well as to provide a conducive environment where the children will acquire values and essential life skills, counselling and support to the children, relatives and their families, so that they can develop a positive self concept, self esteem and acceptance.

// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
Signed Limited Edition 1/1 (one-off)
Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm

auction lot 100



«Camera Shy» The relative calmness of Project Defy's oldest «Nook» was soothing after having to find my way by public bus from the center of Bangalore's frenzy. The electricity had been out for most of the morning, and eager students milled about while awaiting for the return of the lights and internet. One new student, shrieked with laughter, as she ran from my camera lens. Like a curious kitten, she reappeared shortly after to take another look, this time well protected by a concrete window vent...
// Kagglipura (1 hour south of Bangalore)

// Project Defy, founded by Abhijit Sinha (kanthari Alumni 2015), is reclaiming the meaning of education and breaking the existing factory-model of learning, by helping communities create their own schools, called «Nooks». The two basic tenets of their approach are that «learning happens naturally» and «information is available freely». They created their own school, and their own learning environment, which has no teachers and no exams, and where people of different ages and backgrounds learn together out of curiosity, and knowledge sharing.



// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
Signed Limited Edition 1/1 (one-off)
Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm

auction lot 101



«Freedom on Wheels» George and I spent the 6 hour journey telling stories and getting lost on unmarked dirt roads as we rode through the morning to visit an event his project organized. The community center was hot and dark, and alive with children laughing, as they danced around wheelchairs where parents sat eagerly listening. Outside, a rusted bicycle was leaning against a wall, surrounded by old branches and debris, as if a monsoonal flood had stranded it there many years ago. This scene, called out to me like a lighthouse through the monsoon—the perfect imagery of George’s plight to make India wheel chair friendly... // Ernakulam district, Kerala

// Freedom on Wheels, founded by George Thomas (Kanthari Alumni 2012). George works to give people with disabilities a means to earn a living by teaching them marketable skills. George is also very involved with activism to help fight for a wheel chair friendly India and rights of the disabled.



// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
Signed Limited Edition 1/1 (one-off)
Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm



«Tata the Farmer» As soon as I arrived at Sristi, I saw Tata—a face like a famous novel, filled with tales of deep smiles and tears. His battered hands spoke of endless battles, calloused and raw like worn leather gloves and decades tilling rocky land in heat. The scene was already set in my mind. The only challenge was getting him to pause from his never-ending work for just a moment, to capture his story in light. // Kunamangalam Village, Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu

// Sristi Village, founded by G. Karthikeyan (kanthari Alumni 2012) gives intellectually disabled people the opportunity to learn farming skills and therefore get the chance to work in the sector of agriculture, generate their own income and become self-sustaining and (partly) independent. It is their objective to empower and enable the intellectually disabled to lead a dignified and holistic life.

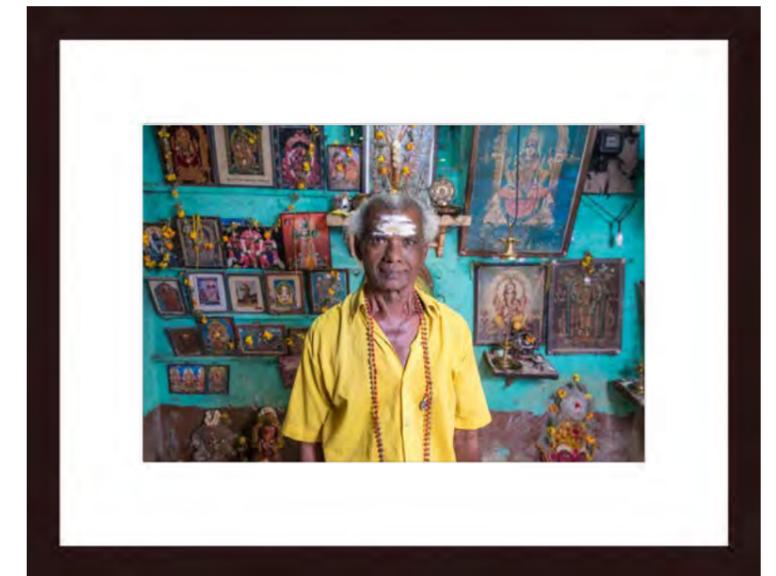
// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
Signed Limited Edition 1/1 (one-off)
Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm

auction lot 104



«An Invitation to a Temple» The sun was starting to sink over Rajapalayam, as Partha, lead me through an over-grown field and across a small stream. The smell of burning plastic weighed heavy in my lungs. Beyond the stream, through some trees, was a small concrete structure with a porch. Panjammal greeted us warmly, and proudly waved me inside her small temple home. //Rajapalayam Town, Virudhunagar District, rural Tamil Nadu

// Aravan, founded by Parthasarathy Kandasamy (kanthari Alumni 2016), works with the LGBTQI community to defend their rights, reduce their health care risks, and the impact of violence, abuse and harassment against them, to improve their livelihoods. Aravan works for LGBTQI people, enabling them to work for themselves, connect them to other people and link them with mainstream institutions for an inclusive development.



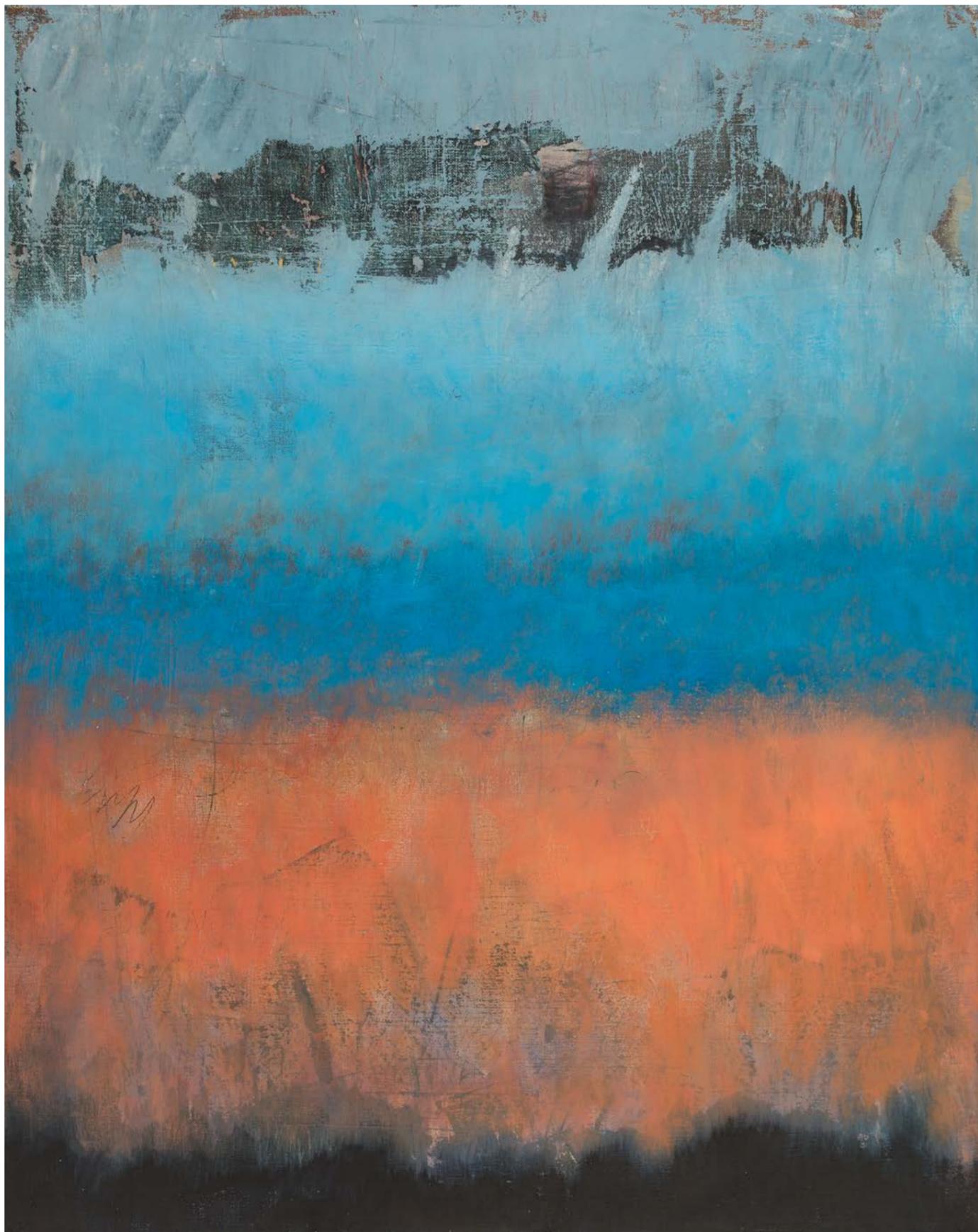
// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
 Signed Limited Edition 1/1 (one-off)
 Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm



«**Standing at the Doors of Time**» The crumbling concrete path was alive—bustling and littered with pots and pans and clutter, while chickens and goats fought for a spot at buckets filled with drink. The sunrise sent spoked rays of light through the trees on to the villagers as they talked, washed clothes and children, and strung beads into jewelry and palm leaves into blankets. A small boy smiles at the door of his family’s one room home, with eyes wide, and a safety pin in his mouth, before ducking back inside to play.
// Narikurava Colony, Pondicherry

// Yurt on Wheels, founded by John Peter (kanthari Alumni 2013), works with nomadic and marginalized communities in India that are struggling with social stigma and challenges relating to poverty, unemployment, early child marriage, disease, and lack of knowledge about government facilities and other sources of support. Yurt on Wheels focuses on empowering the children and youth in these communities through ensuring that they have consistent access to education and vocational training.

// 60 x 40 cm Durst Lambda C-Print
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Solid wood frame with passe-partout: 92 x 72 cm



// The Monsoon Finally Arrives on Lake Vellayani
(kanthari Campus, Kerala India), 2017
Acrylic on Linen Canvas, 80 x 100 cm

«The Monsoon Finally Arrives on Lake Vellayani
(kanthari Campus, Kerala India)»

The monsoon was late. Lake Vellayani, bordering the kanthari campus, was slowly dying, each day sinking lower, like a blossom withering in the heat. Vellayani, the largest fresh water lake in the region, serves as the life blood to all that lived around it. The days fell into weeks, hot and thick and sweaty, as the Cumulonimbus clouds grew taller, but just hung there, a slow, silent tease.

Then, first a drop, and a rumble though the air. The monsoon arrived, wrapped in blue-black and gray, as it battled with the sun in waves of orange and prism jeweled glow.

// kanthari Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala India



// All the Colors of the kanthari World, 2017
Acrylic on Linen Canvas, 55 x 55 cm

«All the Colors of the kanthari World»
There are 5 official colors of the kanthari world, seen in the kanthari logo: Green (Initiators), Yellow (Inventors), Orange (Entrepreneurs), Red (Advocates), and Purple (Artists). My three month journey through the kanthari world saw all these colors and millions of shades and tints in between...

// All throughout Southern India



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7.–18. November 2017

Vernissage & Charity Auction

Tuesday, 7. November 2017, 18.00h

Kulturpark Zürich, Pfingstweidstr. 16, 8005 Zurich

Sotheby's Auctioneer: Stefan Puttaert, Head of Sotheby's Zürich

Special Guests: Christine Maier, Journalist & Television Presenter

Sabriye Tenberken & Paul Kronenberg, kanthari Founders

Joseph Pisani, Artist & Photographer

Please RSVP for the Charity Auction by 1. November:

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or by telephone at: +41 79 725 18 96

More information and Videos from the trip:

» www.josephpisani.com/artbraille

