

art braille kanthari



kanthari through the eyes of an artist

Art Exhibition & Charity Auction // 7. – 18. November 2017

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Art Exhibition & Charity Auction

Kulturpark Zurich, Pfingstweidstr. 16, 8005 Zurich

Vernissage & Charity Auction

//Tuesday, 7. November 2017, 18.00h

Sotheby's Auctioneer:

Stefan Puttaert, Director 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 until 1. November:

artbraille@kanthari.ch / artbraille@josephpisani.com

or by Telephone: +41 79 725 18 96

Exhibition Events

// Thursday, 9. Nov. 2017, 18.00h

Artist Talk: Pisani talks about his 3 month trip through Southern India on the kanthari trail

// Saturday, 11. Nov. 2017, 13.00h

Photo Slide show: Pisani's trip with the photo backstory

// Dienstag, 14. Nov. 2017, 18.00h

Artist Talk: Pisani talks about his 3 month trip through Southern India on the kanthari trail

// Saturday, 18. Nov. 2017, 14.00 – 18.00h

Finnissage, Artist Talk and Photo Slide Show

Auction Catalog & Videos from the trip: »www.josephpisani.com/artbraille

Opening Hours: 8. – 18. Nov. from Mo – Fr, 12:00 – 20:00h & Sa – So, 12:00 – 18:00h at the Kulturpark Zürich.





// A nomadic tribal child whose family is helped from the project Yurt on Wheels // Narikurava, Pondicherry

«art braille kanthari»

«art braille kanthari» is an art exhibition and charity auction based on Joseph Pisani's three month kanthari trip through Southern India. The exhibition includes photographs, abstract paintings, video clips from the trip, and braille prose. Pisani, a New York born artist, lives and works in Zurich and India is the 71st country he has visited. In Southern India, Pisani visited the kanthari campus, met the kanthari founders and the 24 students from this year's seven month program, then visited seven projects founded by kanthari alumni throughout southern India. «art braille kanthari» documents the tireless work of the kanthari alumni, their social projects, and the people they have helped.

» www.kanthari.ch

// Sabriye Tenberken & Paul Kronenberg, kanthari Founders

kanthari is an accredited international institute that recognizes leadership in those individuals who come from and/or are positioned at the margins of society and have overcome major adversities in their lives. The intake is based on their talent, dreams and the major adversity (Pinching point) they have overcome. Our aim is to empower those «kantharis» who have gained strength from their adversities and, being a part of a target group similar to themselves, are intrinsically driven to create ethical social change. Since 2009, 160 participants from 38 countries were trained at kanthari. This has already resulted in more than 125 social initiatives and organizations that are making a positive impact in the lives of thousands of people within their communities.

» www.kanthari.org

// Joseph Pisani, Artist & Photographer

Joseph finds his inspiration from his extensive travel around the globe. Often armed with little more than a backpack, sketchbook, camera and a one-way plane ticket, he purposely avoids the easy route. «Sure, there's been some pretty rough moments along the way,» he explains, «but it's the trouble spots that often bear the most exciting memories.» Pisani has extensively exhibited his art internationally including a solo show at the United Nations (UNO) in Geneva, and a permanent exhibit at the US consulate in Zurich since 2006. Pisani has also been written about many times in the Swiss media and appeared on TV and radio including as a guest on the Swiss television talk show «Aeschbacher».

» www.josephpisani.com





// The Aravan Project empowers the LGBTQI Community // A transgender woman stands in front of a temple in her small one room home that's also used as a meeting place for the LGBTQI community. // Rajapalayam Town, rural Tamil Nadu.



Global Network for Equality Project, Tirunelveli, 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.

Photo Above: A small child stairs out the door of the one room home where a the whole family of seven live





// After being falsely imprisoned for life for rape & murder, Mr. Madasamy's wife left him and their 5 children in the care of his father, because the shame she felt from the ordeal. KR Raja, through his GNE project, was able to find a pro bono attorney, and raise the appeal fees which allowed him his freedom after 3 years...



Yurt on Wheels, Narikurava, a Nomadic Tribal Community

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.

Photo Above: A small Narikurava child holds on tightly to an improvised hammock where her brother sleeps.





// Yurt on Wheels // A small boy with a safety pin in his mouth smiles at the door of his family's one room home with his brother is playing in the background. // Narikurava, Nomadic Tribal Community, Pondicherry



Sristi Village, Thazhuthali Village, Tindivanam T.k., Villupuram District

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.

Photo Above: Some of the Sristi villagers work together on the new dairy farm house.





// Sristi Village // Tata the farmer // Villupuram District, about an hour from Pondicherry in Tamil Nadu



Project DEFY, Nook in Kaggalipura, south of Bangalore, Karnataka

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. **Photo Above:** A new student on her first day at the Nook in Kaggalipura.





// Project DEFY «Nook» // A student waits for the power to return so he can continue working on his project // Kaggalipura, about an hour south of Bangalore, Karnataka



// 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...



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

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

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