

The Walls Project

Guided Visits

Photo exhibition « *Murs* » on the Pont de la Machine – Geneva

« *Men build too many walls and not enough bridges* » Isaac Newton

20 years ago, on the 9th November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. “Never again” we said. Yet for two decades, walls have been built around the world, bringing with them their fair share of human suffering. Through the critical eyes of internationally renowned photographers, this exhibition is a journey along these modern walls which divide, compartmentalise, diminish the lives of the people living in their shadows and disfigure the landscape in which they are rooted. Because they are iconic, this exhibition focuses on border walls: Berlin, USA-Mexico, Israel-Palestine, Cueta, India-Pakistan and others.

Each photo was chosen for its symbolic power and its universality, regardless of history and political circumstances. Whether border-walls, territorial boundary walls, physical barriers, barbed wire, ditches, these dividers of countries, people, neighborhoods and souls are innumerable, and indicate a disturbing trend for walling in our global society.

To the benefit of who and what? Nobody really knows. Is it healthy, sensible, an absurd response, necessary or simply the implacable logic of a contemporary society which can no longer manage its own contradictions and uneasiness? At the expense of dialogue, respect, mutual understanding and integration, frequently a “security” response or exclusion are preferred. Even the most vibrant democracies do not appear to know how to accommodate differences which are allegedly threatening and disturbing.

Confronted with this “otherness”; misunderstood, frightening, which seems to threaten our social cohesion, our values, our physical security, our possessions, our privileges, the pursuits of hermetic separation is a frequent outcome. The strongholds of the Middle Ages fell beneath the blows of the Renaissance, opening cities and minds to the outside. Confronted with increasing levels of fear, is the modern world returning to its feudal roots, turning in on itself, in search of an illusory sense of freedom within its own walls?

Organised by the Association Imaginaid, with the patronage of the City of Geneva, the exhibition is held to commemorate of 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In November 1989, the people of Berlin vindicated history. Walls do not stand up to time. One day they crumble and disappear. On this symbolic structure of the Pont de la Machine, this is the message of hope that this exhibition seeks to bring to the many victims of the many walls.

Signing up for Exhibition's Guided Visit

Dates and time :

The photo exhibition « *Murs* » will be open from the 10th of November 2009 to the 31st of January 2010 at Pont de la Machine in Geneva. Guided visits are possible from from 9am until 4pm (start of the last visit).

Guides :

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, guided visits are offered to provide you and your students with an understanding of the context of the exhibition, a context which aims to provoke reflection. Two Geneva associations will provide experienced guides: *Graines de Paix* Association and Grey Cells Association.

Greycells - Association of former international civil servants for development - has been established by a group of former staff members who retired from service in the UN organisations and in other international organisations. *Greycells* is a platform through which these retirees can make their experience and expertise available, on a voluntary basis. *Greycells*, is a Geneva-based association co-operating with Swiss institutions, with a view to improving the information capacity, outreach and hospitality facilities of this host city for so many international organizations and NGOs

Graines de Paix is a peace education NGO based in Geneva and progressively active in several countries. We develop tools and materials with the goal of encouraging relations of peace so as to prevent violence durably. We also organise many activities: educational awareness hours for children, public events, conferences and workshops.

Our work centers around the importance of human values, of practicing peace reflexes and of working on one's threshold above which violence becomes unacceptable. *Grains of Peace* is apolitical, non-confessional and independent of outside organizations or influences.

Langages :

Visits can be conducted in French, English or bilingually.

How to register for a guided visit :

To help us with the organisation of visits, we ask you to kindly register your class in advance by filling in the form below and sending it back to:

Fondation Earth Focus
The Wall Project
6, chemin Sous cherre
1245 Collonge Bellerive

Tel : 022 704 35 14 Fax: 022 349 50 77

Nicola Spafford Furey
079 202 17 65
nicola@earthfocus.org

ou Sandra Brazzini-Mourier
078 834 58 03
sandra@earthfocus.org

This form should be returned a minimum of two weeks before your preferred visit date. Once this form is received, we will contact you in order to confirm the place, date and time of your visit.

The Wall Project

Sign up Form - Guided Visits (about 1 hour)

Exhibition from Tuesday 10th of November 2009 to Sunday 31st of January 2010

School's name : _____

Class : _____

Number of students participating : / _____ /

Context of the students' participation (History, Geography, French, English, other class or activity...) :

This information will help us to better plan your visit and choose the most appropriate guide.

Preferred date(s) of visit : / ____ / ____ / ____ / or / ____ / ____ / ____ /

Fill in indicating the date: dd/mm/yy

Preferred time(s): / ____ / ____ / or / ____ / ____ / (ex : 11am-12am or 2pm-3pm)

We remind you that the visits are from 9am to 4pm (start of last visit)

Choice of Language: French English bilingual

Contacts :

Teacher's name : _____

Contacts details (phone and/or e-mail) : _____

This information will allow us to contact you to confirm the visit and give you all the necessary details.

Form to be returned by preference by email or fax to the following contacts (**at least two weeks before your preferred visit date**):

Fondation Earth Focus

nicola@earthfocus.org ou sandra@earthfocus.org

Fax: 022 349 50 77