

# The Walls Project

## Caption Competition 2009-2010

### Photographic Exhibition « *Murs* », Pont de la Machine, Geneva

#### **The context :**

The Walls project has its origin, context and inspiration in the « *Murs* » photographic exhibition. Organised by the Imaginaid association, with the patronage of the City of Geneva, the exhibition will take place on the Pont de la Machine, Geneva from **9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010** and will commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

20 years ago, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. "Never again" we said. Yet the temptation to give into walls and *hyper security* to protect against an "otherness" which is threatening, disturbing or simply different has never been greater than today; omnipresent and on many minds. With the support of the City of Geneva, the exhibition brings together works of great photographers, past and present, who have documented frontier walls around the world, from Berlin to Arizona to Jerusalem to Ceuta and others.

The exhibition reflects social and human realities, raises the disturbing finding of an increased tendency to build walls, while emphasising the symbolic and metaphorical representation of frontier walls and their roots in their landscape. The exhibition does not seek to be a comprehensive review of our world's dividing walls and it is neither partisan nor proselytising.

#### **Organising Committee :**

The Earth Focus Foundation, collaborating with the International School of Geneva, Département de l'instruction publique and Imaginaid has launched a caption competition linked to the « *Murs* » photographic exhibition. The Organising Committee is responsible for the co-ordination of the competition, all decision-making and the enforcement of the prevailing rules and will adjudicate on any matters arising.

#### **Objectives of the competition :**

The competition seeks to encourage students aged 12 to 15 years (cycle d'orientation) and 16 to 19 years (post-obligatoire) attending Geneva's public and private schools to reflect on the theme of frontiers and dividing walls and their implications. The aim is also to show that divisions can also come from psychological, cultural and linguistic barriers or life style choices. Having introduced the images in the context of a guided visit, students and teachers are invited to participate in the caption competition.

Each photograph within the exhibition will be numbered. During their visit each student is asked to choose 3 photos from the exhibition (noting their number) and to write captions.

Each class then chooses, based on their own selection criteria, 3 captions which are entered on behalf of the class.

The maximum length of any caption is 400 words. If the work done in class results in a longer document, this can be entered into the literature competition organised by Mandat International on international co-operation. See. [www.genevedecouverte.ch](http://www.genevedecouverte.ch).

## **Participants and competition categories :**

All classes of students aged 12 to 19, attending a Geneva public or private school having visited the « *Murs* » photographic exhibition can enter this competition.

There are two competition categories, based on the ages of the students in the class

- (12-15 years ) equivalent of the DIP Secondaire I : cycle d'orientation
- (16-19 years) equivalent of the DIP Secondaire II : post-obligatoire

## **Rules common to all categories :**

- ✓ The text entered into the competition is the work of one student completed in class and may take one of many forms : prose, poem, story, commentary, etc.
- ✓ The text including any title will be a maximum of 400 words long.
- ✓ The text will be **directly linked to the numbered photograph** in the exhibition and to a **reflection on walls that divide**.
- ✓ All submissions will be the work of the author.
- ✓ Captions can be written in French, English, Italian, German or Spanish as decided by the class teacher.
- ✓ External sources (i.e. quotations) must be explicitly acknowledged as such.

## **Exclusions :**

The following are prohibited from the competition :

- Incomplete submissions or those not respectful of the subject
- Defamatory, injurious or racist works
- Plagiarism

## **Competition organisation and timetable :**

Submissions may be made from the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Deadline for submissions : **12<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

The jury will judge from the 15<sup>th</sup> February to the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Awarding prizes :

- ✓ For students aged 12 to 15 years (Secondaire I ) 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 during a symposium on the theme
- ✓ For students aged 16 to 19 years (Secondaire II ) 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 during a symposium on the theme

## **The Jury :**

Each category will be judged by a jury made up of competent members nominated from the Organising Committee. They will select a winning caption from each category regardless of the language in which it is written.

The Jury's decisions are binding and cannot be appealed.

All Jury members must declare an interest and remove themselves from the consideration of texts written by individuals with whom they have a personal link.

## **Judging Criteria :**

All texts will be considered with particular reference to their:

- Overall quality

- Originality
- Connection with the core theme of the competition; and
- The work completed

### **Prizes :**

The winning caption in each category will receive a “cultural” prize in relation with the issue of this competition for the whole class.

All captions submitted will be published in the Earth Focus magazine *Objectif Terre* and on the Earth Focus website at [www.earthfocus.org](http://www.earthfocus.org).

### **How to participate :**

One submission from each participating class and each submission will include:

- The three captions clearly linked to the numbered photos to which they relate.
- A completed and signed submission form.

The submission form may be downloaded from [www.earthfocus.org](http://www.earthfocus.org) or requested by email or telephone at the contact points listed below.

#### Regarding submissions made by email:

The submission form and the captions must be returned in MicroSoft Word format or an equivalent.

All submissions must be returned by the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010, preferably by email to one of the following contacts:

Earth Focus Foundation  
Caption Competition 2010  
Fax: 022 704 35 01

Nicola Spafford Furey  
[nicola@earthfocus.org](mailto:nicola@earthfocus.org)

or Sandra Brazzini-Mourier  
[sandra@earthfocus.org](mailto:sandra@earthfocus.org)

### **Rights :**

The Earth Focus Foundation and its partners reserve the right to use and circulate freely all or part of the submissions received in the context of promoting their work, having advised the authors of their intention to do so.

The original submissions will remain the property of the Earth Focus Foundation and its partners, the authors retaining copyright.

### **Procedural changes and exceptions :**

By their participation, all participants are explicitly stating their acceptance without reserve of the competition rules. Failure to respect the competition rules will result in participants being excluded from the competition.

All matters relating to the interpretation or application of the competition rules will be dealt with by the Organising Committee. There is no appeal process.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to modify, delay or cancel the competition should the need arise.

Geneva, 21 September 2009

## **The Walls Project**

### **Caption Competition 2009-2010**

**Photographic Exhibiton « Murs », Pont de la Machine, Geneva**

#### **Submission form :**

Send with the captions forms.

**Deadline : 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**Name (Teacher) :**

**Surname (Teacher) :**

**School:**

**Postal Address :**

**Class :**

**Number of students participating :**

**Telephone :**

**Email :**

**Rules read and approved :**

**Date and place:**

**Teacher's signature :**