



Press Releases

Stirring the Fire: a global movement to empower women and girls Launches on International Women's Day, March 8, 2010.

In collaboration with the Foundation for Women and other women's funding organizations, and a major financial institution, photokunst announces the traveling exhibition *Stirring the Fire: a global movement to empower women and girls*, and companion website by social documentary photographer and filmmaker Phil Borges.

Stirring the Fire documents women from developing countries who have broken through barriers of tradition and oppression to become catalysts of change in their communities. Through the photos and inspirational stories of these women, Borges hopes to bring the issue of global gender inequality to a new level of awareness.

The traveling exhibition will be launched at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego August 15, 2010 and continue through December 15, 2010. Through its Women PeaceMakers and WorldLink programs, the Institute puts a special emphasis on the impact that women and youth have in building sustainable peace. Institutions wishing to schedule the exhibition may contact info@photokunst.com.

Borges' companion website www.stirringthefire.com will launch on March 8, International Women's Day. Central to the project is its searchable database of organizations and resources providing specific opportunities for empowering women and girls to achieve social and economic justice worldwide. According to Borges, "The goal is for the photos and stories in the exhibition to inspire a deep-seated desire to make a difference. The database provides choices for involvement that include but go beyond donating money. Other choices include internships, study abroad programs, and various forms of advocacy. *Stirring the Fire* is intended to assist concerned individuals find a tailor made avenue to help empower women and girls worldwide."

Social documentary photographer and filmmaker Phil Borges has chronicled indigenous and tribal cultures around the world for more than 25 years. His work opened his eyes to the amount of discrimination and oppression of women and girls in developing countries, inspiring him to become a strong advocate for empowering women and girls with the support they need to make a difference in their lives and communities.

Borges met many of the women and girls that are featured in the exhibition while documenting projects for NGO's (non-governmental organizations) like Amnesty International, CARE, The Tibetan Rights Campaign, One HEART, GEMS and Interplast. His book, *Women Empowered: inspiring change in the emerging world*, with a foreword by Madeleine K. Albright was released in 2008.

photokunst specializes in cause-oriented, fine art photography and photojournalism and is offering exhibitions by established photographers worldwide.

www.photokunst.com.

High resolution photos available upon request.



STIRRING THE FIRE Available August 2010-August 2015.

For more info contact Barbara Cox, Principal
photokunst
725 Argyle Avenue
Friday Harbor, WA 98250
Tel: (360) 369-370-1000



Quotes:

"Through the stunning photography and straightforward commentary of Phil Borges, viewers come to know how women are improving and enriching their own lives, and those of the people around them." - Madeleine K. Albright

"A deeply inspirational work, Phil Borges has brought us face to face with heros --remote and mostly unknown women-- on the edge of a slow but steady transformation,

Tel. (001) 360 378 1028
Fax. (001) 360 370 5061

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bringing social and economic justice to women and girls worldwide." - Isabel Allende

"By empowering women and girls, the primary caregivers, we can fulfill our role as leaders in a global environmental crusade. Let us all step up to protect the earth, for in its survival depends our own." - Wangari Maathai