



Same difference

Linking children all over the world



International Service

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Reg. Charity No: 1069182



Photo: Ross Georgeson

Same Difference - Central Library, Sheffield, April 2007

"It's very difficult to pick one aspect of this exhibition as being the best as it is so unique! The exhibition made fantastic viewing for visitors but the artworks included in the exhibition from the workshops gave the children, and us, pride and ownership."

Gurjit Bhachoo, Marketing Officer,
Sheffield Central Library

"Pupils were allowed total freedom of ideas - not specifically channelled as is often the case- looking at each others' work and being inspired."

Mrs Jackson, Teacher,
Newbridge Junior School, Southampton

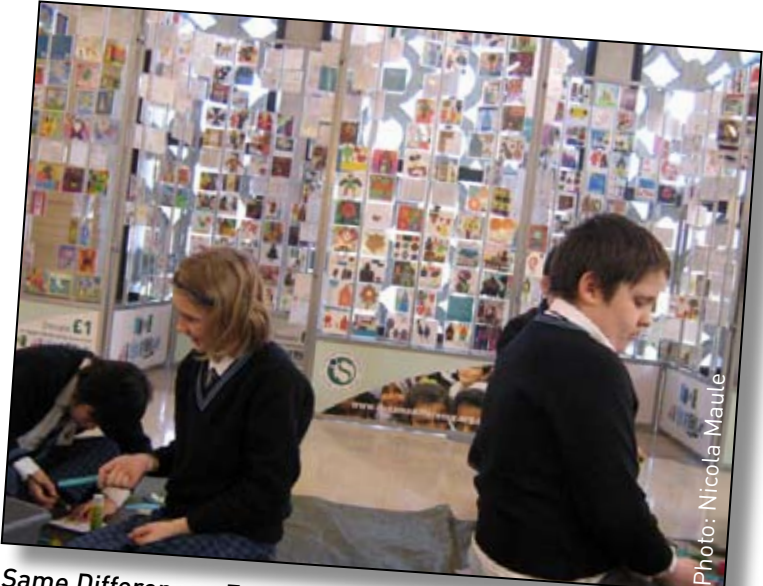


Photo: Nicola Maule

Same Difference - Exhibition and art workshop, Southampton City Art Gallery, March 2008



Photo: Ross Georgeson

Same Difference - Centre for the Child, Central Library, Birmingham, May 2007

"We felt very privileged to host such a wealth of imaginative artwork and thoughtful comments. A big thank you from us all at the Centre for the Child! "

Janet Brisland, Manager,
Centre for the Child,
Birmingham Central Library

Introduction to Same Difference

Same Difference is an exciting and innovative International Service (IS) project devised by the Human Rights Award winning artist and art educator, Ross Georgeson.

The idea behind Same Difference is to use art and creativity to boost the self esteem of children living with violence, oppression, disability, disease and extreme poverty. Same Difference art sessions give disadvantaged children a chance to be creative and imaginative. Local educators are also engaged in the sessions to show them how art can be used positively, even with limited resources.

The project has strengthened the capacity of the educators we have worked with to deliver more creative learning in their curriculum, and shown how it can be adapted for children with different needs; for example, those living with disability, trauma or conflict. Training courses in art education have also been given to organizations working with children, youth and people with disabilities.



Ross Georgeson during a **Same Difference** workshop for women teachers, Hebron, June 2007



Sculpture created from artwork by children from Scotland and Burkina Faso exhibited at the AMPO orphanage in Burkina Faso, January 2006



Sculpture created from **Same Difference** artwork exhibited at Arts and Crafts Village, Palestine, 2006

Why Same Difference?

We want to send a message to children and adults in Mali, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Bolivia, Palestine and the UK that art can be a powerful tool in helping vulnerable people to:

- build confidence
- self-esteem
- offer choices to people who generally have none

In many countries, a rigid school curriculum tends to be based on rote learning, offering few chances for creativity and opportunities to use initiative and imagination. This manifests itself in a culture where a lack of risk taking, innovation and confidence permeates into working life.

The art workshops, for children and teachers alike, intend to introduce creativity into the existing curriculum, give children a means of expression and show that art can be done using the minimum of resources.

Children take part in activities encouraging them to express their ideas about their history, culture and citizenship and learn about other children's religions, festivals, food and natural history, in the other countries taking part in the project.

Through **Same Difference**, we want to introduce:

- Experiential and questioning types of learning
- Activities to give children a repertoire of skills, especially those who have never done any creative work
- Confidence boosting for both teachers and children
- Therapy and coping strategy training for professionals, parents and youth workers in areas of conflict and trauma
- Training for teachers in how art and creativity can be introduced across the curriculum
- Increased Global Awareness

Same Difference is a unique and project which helps to improve the lives of these disadvantaged children and their parents, carers and teachers. The children gain in confidence, as well as learn about other countries and cultures taking part, and be given a chance to express themselves to the wider community through the exhibition of their work.



Reading a **Same Difference** card from Mali, City Art Gallery, Southampton, March 2008



Outdoor exhibition of **Same Difference** artwork at Museo Kusillo, La Paz, Bolivia, June 2006

Same Difference around the world

"You have given our children such a big thing"

Katrin Rhode, AMPO orphanage, Burkina Faso

Same Difference began in December 2005 in Edinburgh with an arts workshop for disadvantaged children. Each child created a unique art "postcard", which collectively formed an art exhibition at the end of the workshops. Ross Georgeson then took the artwork with him to Burkina Faso and displayed it alongside artwork produced by local children. Ross has now visited all five IS programme countries where he has facilitated art sessions and displayed the artwork from around the world, side by side, in each country.

Burkina Faso is the third poorest country in the world. The **300** children who participated included AIDS orphans, street children and a deaf children's unit in a mainstream school, the only one in the country.

Mali is the fourth poorest country in the world. In 2006 we worked with **350** children, including AIDS orphans, physically disabled children, children from SOS Villages, and with an artists' collective who wanted to take their work into nomads/pastoralists schools in the Sahara. Ross also worked with five children's organisations between October and December 2007.

Bolivia is the poorest country in Latin America. We have worked with **150** children: street children and those who live and work in Cochabamba's cemeteries.

We have also worked with children in the **West Bank of Palestine** and in **Gaza**, including **100** living in cramped conditions in the Old City of Jerusalem, **200** refugee children in Gaza, **100** disabled children in East Jerusalem and a further **50** in Gaza. Between June and August 2007 we worked with a further seven organisations. Ross returned to Palestine in May 2008 for a three month period and is expecting to work with approximately **2000** children.

Northeast Brazil is the poorest area of the country where incomes are only 46% of the national average. In November 2006 worked with **250** children, including children living on the streets of Recife, the fourth largest city, and with a deaf children's unit.

In 2008, children from **Belarus** (the first in Eastern Europe) and in 2009 children from **Qatar**, **Ghana** and **Columbia** took part in a **Same Difference** workshops,



Same Difference workshop, Fundacion Nueva Dia (Resource and Education Centre for Child Workers), Bolivia, June 2006



Same Difference workshop, Grupo Ruas and Pracas, Brazil, November 2006



Same Difference workshop, AMASOURD (School for deaf and hearing impaired children), Mali, June 2006

Same Difference in the UK

"The workshops were brilliant! Our young people had a fab time!"

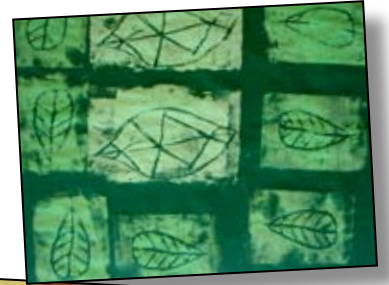
Shabana Mughal, White Rose Learning Centre, Leeds

A touring exhibition of the UK is currently taking place. We have visited a variety of venues in over 20 locations. At each venue children from local schools are invited to participate in free development awareness art workshops. The workshops are normally held in an education room, lecture theatre or free space.

It is our aim to continue touring the exhibition to a wide range of public, institutional and corporate venues.

Aims of the tour

- To highlight the aspirations of children across a wide spectrum of cultures and environments, often poverty and conflict
- To give children the opportunity to see what other children think
- Explore the similarities and differences of young people
- Raise awareness of development issues
- To help children gain greater confidence in making artwork
- Opportunity for the children to be part of an international touring exhibition
- Connect organisations
- Promote the work of International Service at home and abroad.



Artwork produced during a **Same Difference** Global Week involving 400 children at Windmill and Low Road Primary Schools Leeds, February 2008



Photo: Barry Perks

Same Difference 'drop-in' art workshop, Coppergate Centre, York, April 2007



Photo: Julie MacDermott

Same Difference development awareness art workshop at Marton-cum-Grafton Cof E Primary School, North Yorkshire, 2005

The Same Difference exhibition

"This exhibition was extremely popular. It was well received, organised and of a high calibre. I believe that it created more interest than any other exhibition during my time of being responsible for exhibitions at Hackney.

Congratulations on all your efforts in putting together such a thought provoking and ground breaking exhibition."

Amber Baylis, Hackney Central Library

The self contained exhibition includes aspects of installation, sculpture and 2 dimensional work. This consists of 10-12 inter-linking free-standing frames making the exhibition flexible to the space available at each venue. Each frame measures approximately 1m x 2m and holds 72 pieces of double sided artwork. Being self-contained the exhibition can be shown alongside other exhibitions and promotions. The exhibition also includes text and photographs of the children involved and the countries in which they live.



Same Difference - exhibition detail

Same Difference website

www.is-samedifference.org.uk

Visitors to the **Same Difference** website are able to:

- view a gallery of artwork produced by thousands of children
- download ideas for art activities
- see photographs of venues and workshops
- find out more information about the **International Service** programme countries.



Screens from the **Same Difference** website

The website will be re-developed in 2010/11 to allow visitors to access our interactive curriculum resources and upload artwork

Same Difference education resources

We are working with the award winning educational publisher Shoofly and the poet Rommi Smith to develop theme based cross curricular activities around Human Rights.

The first resource on the theme of Walls consists of 20 Interactive Whiteboard Activities and 10 Activity Sheets, notes for teachers and an image gallery. The activity will be trialled in schools in July and September 2010.



Screen shots of the **Same Difference** Walls theme Art Interactive White Board and Literacy Teachers



Same Difference achievements

"Could I just say a huge thank you to Barry and Ross. The activity was amazing and the children's feedback stated that it was a favourite! I do think that it gave them 'food for thought' and a great insight to life in another country. I am very grateful that you could attend and hope to work together more!"

Sharon O'Rourke, Extended Schools Cluster Coordinator, Bedale High School, North Yorkshire about a Same Difference transition day workshop involving 12 feeder primary schools.

Same Difference has been included in the *Compendium of good practices in human rights education* based on its quality, originality and transferability to other national contexts by the Human Rights Education Associates.

The **Same Difference** project was awarded a £10,000 Awards for All grant to run a fully inclusive Global Arts Week at the **Seashell Trust** in Cheshire in 2008 for young people of all abilities.

A **Same Difference** case study about our work in Palestine was used in the key note speech by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority (QCDA) at the British Council 2007 Annual Conference for Schools and Local Authorities in London, see <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=QCDA#p/u/54/3fQX9VJ80F4>

It is expected that by the end of July 2010:

- **Over 5000** children will have participated in **Same Difference** workshops in nine countries (excluding the UK)
- **580** teachers, parents, carers and youth workers overseas will be trained to carry out further workshops to promote confidence building and self esteem for many more vulnerable children
- **4251** children from **91** UK schools will have participated in development awareness art workshops.
- **250,758** people have actively engaged with the exhibition at **41** UK venues by participating in a workshop or interacting with the exhibition



Still from the **Same Difference** Palestine case study on the QCDA YouTube website



Same Difference, Cranfield University, May 2010



Children during a **Same Difference** workshop at Bedale High School's 'One World Day', January 2010

About our education team

Ross Georgeson is an arts educator who has worked with children affected by poverty and war for International Service all over the world.

He spent six years in the Occupied Palestinian Territories working at After School Cubs in refugee camps. During his time in the Middle East he organized the first arts summer camps in Gaza, introduced art for therapy for occupational therapists in Gaza and contributed creative therapy training at the University of Bethlehem. Ross also introduced child centred art and crafts in state kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and organized exhibitions of children's art. From 2002-2004 he ran courses to train prospective teachers in the attitudes and skills needed for working with children in difficult circumstances. Ross has also published three teachers handbooks now used extensively throughout Palestine.

Ross was awarded the International Volunteer Human Rights Defender Award in December 2005 before commencing work on the **Same Difference** project.

Barry Perks is a designer with experience in graphics, theatre, publishing, exhibition and new media. He has worked with children in both art and sport spending two years in Nigeria working at a school for deaf and blind children and delivering art workshops in Mali, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Bolivia and the UK.

About International Service

International Service (IS) works in partnership with grass roots organisations in Latin America, West Africa and the Middle East in order to build sustainable capacities amongst poor communities to enable them to take active steps towards the eradication of poverty.

We do this by providing skilled and experienced professionals (development workers) to share their skills and collaborate with locally organised initiatives through partnerships based on mutual respect and accountability. IS has sent over 6,000 voluntary development workers to 20 countries so far and expects to carry on doing so for many years to come.

IS believes that development is a process of change and its development workers participate in this process by the sharing of skills leading to enhanced capacity and reduction of poverty.

Our Target Groups are some of the poorest and most disadvantaged in society - women, disabled people and children.

To assist these target groups, we prioritise sustainable livelihoods, human rights and reproductive and sexual health awareness.

We do this by placing professional development workers, leveraging resources for development initiatives and organisational development and learning.

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Photo: Tom Veller

Ross Georgeson during a **Same Difference** workshop, Fundacion Nueva Dia, Bolivia, June 2006



Photo: Anna Kirk

Barry Perks during a **Same Difference** workshop, Bamako, Mali, June 2007



Photo: Barry Perks

Equal rights for everyone



Photo: Barry Perks

Same Difference, Chichester Library, January 2008

"Art workshops were fantastic for direct engagement with children & young people. Exhibition itself was wonderful for catching the eye of passers-by. We received many comments/enquiries about the project from general public."

Russell Allen, Children's Services Librarian,
Chichester Library

"The children involved had a fantastic time and Barry made everyone feel very welcome."

Simon Burgon, Centre Manager,
Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre,
Knaresborough



Photo: Barry Perks

Same Difference art activities at Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre, Knaresborough, July 2007



Photo: Tarot Conway

Same Difference - Jubilee Library, Brighton,
November and December 2007

"Thank you for bringing this worthwhile cause to our libraries and we look forward to working with you again in the near future."

Amanda Baker,
Service Development Manager,
Children & Young People,
Jubilee Library, Brighton



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