

World Tapestry

Author: Daniel Heintz

HUMANITY. We exist in contrasting shapes, sizes, shades and guises. We exhibit various characteristics and distinctive preferences. We exercise respective religions and peculiar philosophies. Our geography, education and financial situations further separate us. Our coexistence as earthlings is not always peaceful-- yet it is through this diversity that we, as a human race, are greatly strengthened. Our unique individuality creates a rich and textured human tapestry –without which we would suffer.

As a traveling photographer, it has been my pleasure (and education) to share countless cultural experiences with diverse peoples during my international expeditions. I have been repeatedly showered with humbling hospitality and generous abundance. We humans truly are a marvellous race. My global glimpses aspire to expose a window of opportunities which might open eyes, hearts and minds to greater understanding and ACCEPTANCE. I wish to introduce faces and places; traditions and cuisines; landscapes and natural wonders--which would otherwise only be witnessed by those plagued by insatiable wanderlust. These images represent a tiny slice of the wealth of humanity encompassed on this planet we share.

Although we are created with unique personalities and tendencies, we are greatly shaped by the environments in which we are raised. Have you ever considered how vastly different your life would be if you had been born in another corner of the world? What if your culture or family embraced an opposing cultural ideology or religious outlook? How greatly changed would be your experience if your skin were a different colour or your access to “civilization” (as you define it) were altered significantly? What if your gender or sexuality were not what they are? What if you went from poverty to royalty –or vice versa? What if you lost a limb or your sight, or a family member? What if your current path were no longer possible and your life direction diverged?

My challenge to you is to IMAGINE your world through the eyes of another.

I will begin my photographic series the way we all begin this life: as receptive children. Eventually, innocence is overshadowed by experience and “education” and our views and opinions become more concrete. Yet there is a glorious period where we live free from prejudice and judgment: youth. Please peer into these faces and imagine a life you might have experienced if you were born elsewhere.



Life begins for Pia, a very fortunate infant in Hanstedt, Germany.



Burmese boys break from Buddhist monastery studies in a village outside of Mandalay, Myanmar.



The girl from Ipanema gazes into the sunset surf of Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Originally orphaned, adopted Seyha eagerly enjoys his very first ocean swim in Kep, Cambodia.



A silent Islamic sweetheart joins our table to break bread and drink mint tea in Chefchaouen, Morocco. She was uninvited but quite welcome ...and wonderfully uninhibited



In a public park where iguanas and pigeons outnumber humans, a boy befriends the beasts in Guayaquil, Ecuador.



Children wander the chaotic streets of Jaipur, India ...in search of recyclables and new friends.



Liora gleefully plays on the site of what was once one of the largest cathedrals in all of Europe (nearly a thousand years ago) in Cluny, France



Botswana



Farm chores start as soon as you can walk when you're living semi-nomadically in rural Mongolia.



Twins endure a local folk festival on the magical Isle of Chiloe in Chile.



Felipe offers one of endless floral options outside of the volcanic Arenal area in Fortuna, Costa Rica [one of the most biodiverse nations].



Nathalie ponders the complexities of death while listening to the public broadcast of Edmund Hilary's funeral in Auckland, New Zealand.



A pouting lad reluctantly savors his frozen treat in Goris, Armenia [where ancestors dwelt in caves to avoid the marauding Huns].



This grinning Tibetan beauty is learning Nepalese traditions because her family fled their homeland to the north. Refugee camps are a permanent way of life for exiled Tibetans in Pokhara, Nepal.



Two indigenous boys play on the shores of Semuc Champey, Guatemala. In an ongoing battle, local tribes have attempted to reclaim their rights to income which the government has been siphoning from entrance fees to their traditional waters.



Mesmerizing blue-eyed Simon is the son of genuine Bohemians who live in their camper van and have a history of hitchhiking from Europe through the “Stans” to the Indian subcontinent. In exchange for labor, I was given a place to stay in their friends barn loft near Kutna Hora, Czech Republic. Fire-cooked goulash, home-brewed beer and hilarious tales ensued around the campfire.



A young beach bum plays lifeguard for the day in Blouberg, outside of Cape Town, South Africa.



Australia



Maggie savors a sugary delight while living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her father is a foreign diplomat at the embassy and she has spent the bulk of her life outside the borders of her homeland: the United States of America.



Island life is both uniting and isolating when there are fewer than 800 inhabitants sharing a tiny spot of sand in the remote Derawan archipelago of Indonesia [off the shores of East Kalimantan / Borneo]. Many of these children may not leave the confines of their tiny island before adulthood.



A savage recent history still deeply influences the present cultural progress in Rwanda as opposing tribes unite to build a future without violence and despair. Elysee is evidence that the future is in good hands.



It is quite common for Asian children to grow up in the arms of their grandparents, as seen here in the crowded metropolis of Manila, Philippines.



Spain



British Birgin Islands

About the Artist: Daniel Heintz is a wandering nomad [with a camera] who is often lost and found. Enamored by earth and humbled by humanity, he enjoys being invited into the lives and homes of strangers who become fast friends and positive influences in his rather eccentric existence. He can be followed on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @classicnomad and @classicnomads. He also has a webpage with limited images available at: www.classicnomad.com