

GLOBAL PEACE TILES

Every day, 14,000 people contract HIV. Every minute of every day a child dies of AIDS. 15 million children around the world have been orphaned by AIDS, losing one or both parents to the disease.

youthaids.org

Right: Search for Inner Beauty, Peace Tile made by a young South African during 2006 World AIDS Day activities convened by NextAid. More at: www.nextaid.org.



A TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT

Exploring the “visual voice” of youth on HIV/AIDS

By Lars Hasselblad Torres

This guide has been developed to facilitate encounters with the “visual voice” of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Through these personal and intimate works, I hope you will discover new dimensions, experiences, and interpretations of the global epidemic. During discussion I hope participants will have the opportunity to hear stories that spark, renew, or deepen personal commitments to “make AIDS history.”

The purpose of this guide is to introduce Peace Tiles to a broad international audience in

an accessible format that encourages exploration of the themes expressed, and to help individuals and groups discover their own ways to take action against AIDS.

A Triumph of the Spirit offers a way for people to encounter and to explore messages about the impact of HIV and AIDS in the lives of youth around the world. It is my hope that the discussions inspired by this guide will positively influence the attitudes and behaviors of others – that by engaging one another and the works of art contained in this guide people will be moved to take personal and group action to miti-

gate the effects of AIDS – in your local community or a community in need somewhere in the world.

The idea for the discussion guide started early in the Winter of 2007 after seeing the Peace Tiles project (www.peacetiles.net) continue to grow around the world. My continued exposure to the uplifting messages young people were creating for each other inspired me to put them to use. I came across the *Amazing Faith** discussion guide later in the year, on which the format of this guide is based, and the guide was born.

* Learn more about *Amazing Faith* at www.amazingfaithoftexas.com.

How To Use This Guide

World AIDS Day is an international focusing moment in the global campaign against AIDS. The *Triumph of the Spirit* guide provides an opportunity for anyone to join efforts to end AIDS - it is an entry point for discussions that can raise awareness, challenge stigma, and invite participants to define and take action to “make AIDS history.”

The cards in this guide provide a way for discussion groups – formed in schools, places of worship, and anywhere else people gather – to participate in World AIDS Day activities; the questions on each card are offered as “entry points” for safe, thoughtful and informed dialogues about HIV/AIDS as it effects children and youth in the world.

I hope these cards will inspire intimate and wide-ranging discussions that lead to individual and group actions to prevent the spread of HIV and reduce stigma toward people living with AIDS.

Getting Started

Triumph of the Spirit contains 16 “cards” that feature Peace Tiles artwork created by youth in response to HIV and AIDS. **Print these cards in color (if possible) on heavy paper and cut them out before discussion.**

In addition to the Peace Tile image each card contains two questions to get discussion going along with an internet resource for additional information. The cards address a range of issues, from positive self-imagery to the needs of people living with AIDS (PLWAs). The internet resource is intended to be of particular benefit in classrooms settings where student discussion is complemented by activities like research and reflective writing.

To get started, **form your group by recruiting friends and their friends or by making World AIDS Day a special topic of discussion for an existing group. Find a comfortable place to meet and talk.** When you gather, assign a group leader (facilitator) who speaks easily and listens well, who is able to maintain structure in the group and who can ask further good questions that draw upon participant reflections. Introduce World AIDS Day and some background on why you are hosting this discussion.

Sample Discussion Format

1. **Introductions.** Even if participants know one another, ask them to share something they think others might not know about them.
2. **Opening Reflection.** Suggest participants share a work of art that moved them. Has anyone been moved by a work of art about AIDS?.
3. **Discussion.** Ask a participant to pull a card from the *Triumph of the Spirit* deck and discuss the image, passing the card around. When ready, have them read the first question and encourage everyone to offer an answer. Have someone else read the second question and go around the group for answers.
4. **Assimilation.** Invite participants to share ways they can apply what they’ve learned in discussion in their own lives and in the world.
5. **Closing Reflection.** What were some of the most evocative tiles? Is there any action the group can take together? Will you meet again?

As you close your discussion, be sure to collect contact information from participants so that you can coordinate follow-up activities.

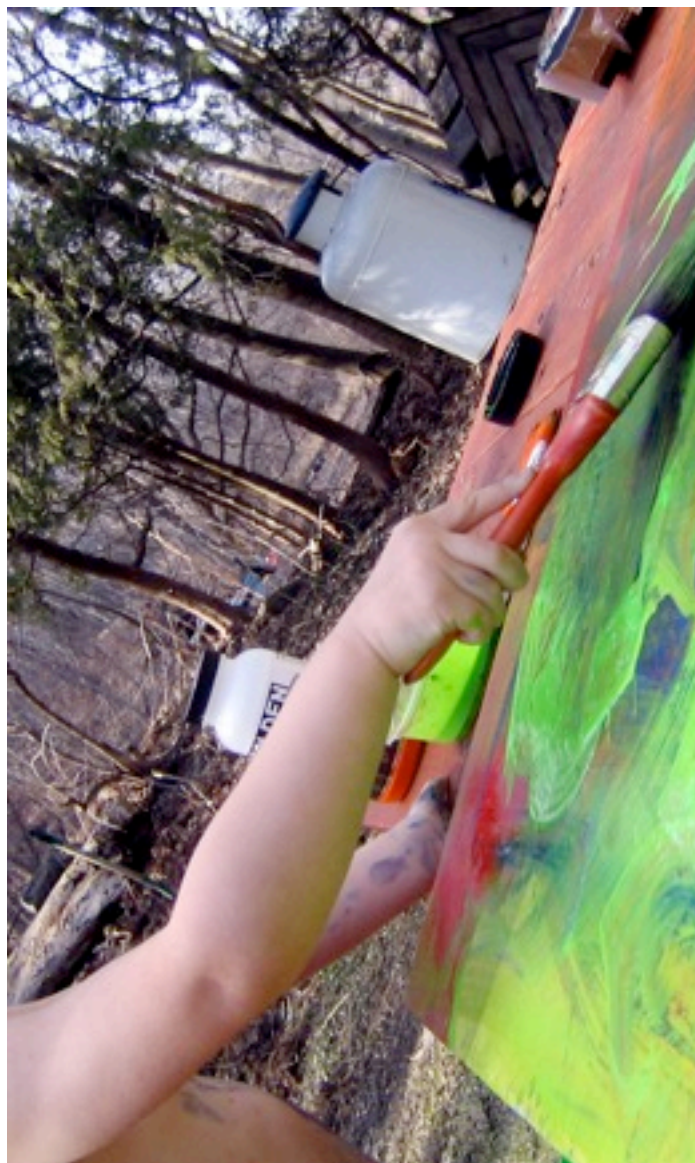
Sparkling visual dialogue

Individual Peace Tiles created in workshops are combined with others to produce vivid murals that communicate the “visual voice” of children and draw the viewer into a global dialogue.

Right: Children in Rajasthan, India create Peace Tiles during a workshop sponsored by Gram Bharati Samiti

Far right: A youth in Johannesburg, South Africa regards tiles from around the world exhibited at the Bus Factory arts center.





TIPS FOR LEADING DISCUSSION

When leading your dialogue, be gentle, open, and fair. Encourage participation from each member but don't force anyone.

Make sure that each person who wants to share has a chance to do so. If a participant takes too much time, respectfully intervene and ask him or her to hold their thought so it can be addressed after others have had a chance to contribute. The goal is to allow everyone a chance to respond to the tiles.

Expect some amazing moments. You may hear some very personal and moving stories. Think about ways to record the conversations so they can be shared with the community at large if appropriate.



Turn *A Triumph of the Spirit* Into Action

Integrating the arts, dialogue and service

Here are some ideas to build upon the interpersonal connections and ideas generated during discussion. The aim is to inspire further ways your group can contribute to the global campaign against HIV/AIDS in the weeks and months before and following World AIDS Day.

- **Introduce the Peace Tiles project.** Use this discussion guide to bring together educators and artists in your community.¹ This kit can serve as a starting point for con-

versations about ways to involve more young people in awareness-raising and service - locally or globally.²

- **Bring youth together.** In informal settings, discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS in their lives and the world. Introduce them to films like *A Closer Walk*³ to learn from moving first hand accounts of the epidemic around the world. Use sites like www.youthaids-aido.org to learn more and take action.
- **Design a community service project.** Contact local businesses and social service organizations in your area to encourage them to partner in support of a community-wide service effort on or leading up to World AIDS Day that makes a contribution toward the eradication of HIV/AIDS.

¹ Learn more about Peace Tiles at www.peacetiles.net

² Visit sites like www.visualaids.org and www.artaidsart.org for artists resources

³ Visit www.acloserwalk.org

About the Global Peace Tiles Project

Peace Tiles are intimate collages on wood panel that tell a story. When combined with others, Peace Tiles produce vibrant murals that express the “visual voice” of young people around ideas, issues, and experiences they care about.

The Peace Tiles process is a wonderful resource for educators that integrates well into a range of learning goals across curriculum standards. These include:

- *Visual arts.* Composition, technique, and narrative are key elements of a Peace Tile.
- *Service learning.* Students can apply their creativity to problem-solving locally and globally.
- *Team building.* Intergroup communication and cooperation are at the heart of the Peace Tiles process.
- *Social studies.* Raise awareness and facilitate connections across geography and culture.
- *Global issues.* Learn about issues experienced locally and their global dimensions.

The Peace Tiles Project provides a basic structure to integrate the visual arts into a range of learning settings.

Our Partners

As it has grown since 2005 the Global Peace Tiles Project has benefited from the contributions of its members around the world. Partner organizations represent an informal network of artists, educators, and community-based social



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The Peace Tiles project also offers:

- *International network.* Access to a growing community of educators and artists looking to connect.
- *Instructional guides.* Workshop design and issue-based discussion materials.
- *Videos.* Lively clips about Peace Tiles projects around the world.

service providers dedicated to reducing the threat of HIV/AIDS and mitigating its impact on children and youth.

Partners in our World AIDS Day activities who have produced or exhibited Peace Tiles include:

ActALIVE (Global)
ACTWID/Kongadzem (Cameroon)
Amoration Studios (United States)
Armory Center for the Arts (United States)
Arts for Global Development. (Global)
Bill Clinton Cares (India)
Girl Child Art Foundation (Nigeria)
Girls Club of Dorchester, Massachusetts (United States)
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Switzerland)
Gram Bharati Samiti (India)
Life in Africa Foundation (Uganda)
Life Home Project (Thailand)
Little Lambs (Kenya)
Mankind Artists Against AIDS (MAAA)

“We had a session with teenagers and we were given a topic on home based testing, which is a new concept being introduced here. Nobody was willing to facilitate to this tender age with all sorts of questions. So we introduced Peace Tiles to them and just told them, “Put what you fear in relation to HIV/AIDS on the tiles.” It was an amazing workshop where they themselves started talking about what they fear and we directed the conversation to household testing and got the message through.”

Dennis Kimambo, Community-based Educator, REPACTED, Kenya

- *Peace Tiles kits.* Individual and group kits that include colored wood tiles, collage materials, and instructions.
- *Workshop support.* Artists and educators trained in the Peace Tiles process are available to assist in the design and facilitation of workshops.

Visit www.peacetiles.net to learn more.

(Tanzania)
Maitreya Universal Education Project (India)
Mosaic the City (Canada)
NextAID (United States and South Africa)
Nyumbani Home (Kenya)
Omidyar Network (www.omidyar.net/home)
Outside the Dream Foundation (Uganda)
Peace Corps Costa Rica
Policy Research Services (Nigeria)
Pretoria Art Museum (PAM) (South Africa)
Princeton Public Library (United States)
REPACTED (Kenya)
Salt Spring Organization for Life Improvement and Development (SOLID) (Canda)
Siam Cares (Thailand)
Synergie pour l'enfance (Senegal)
TakingITGlobal (www.takingitglobal.org)
Upper Peninsula Center for the Arts (United States)
Visual Voices (United States)
Visual Arts and Crafts Academy (VACA) (South Africa)
YMCA Dakar (Senegal)

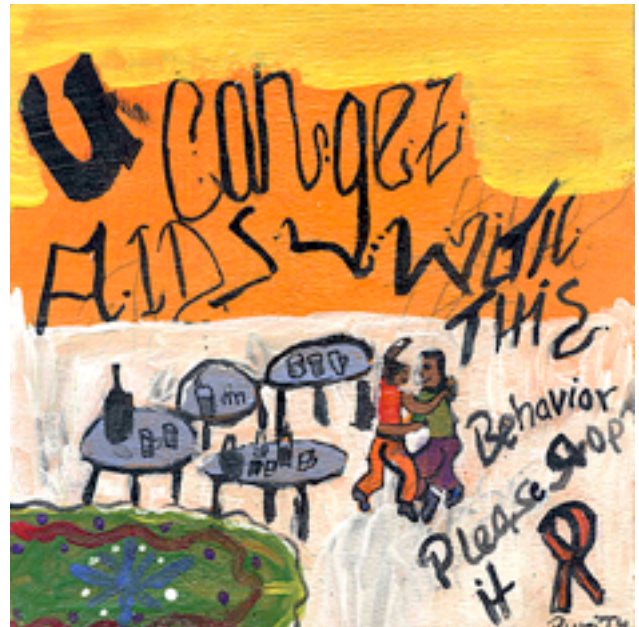


UNTITLED | *Synergie pour l'enfance, Senegal*

What things do you want to run away from? And to?
Do you think this is a hopeful image? Why or why not?

Learn more at:

<http://www.gmfc.org/index.php/gmc6/content/view/full/755>



U CAN GET AIDS | *Little Lambs, Kenya*

What kinds of risks have you taken in your life?
What is this artist trying to say about risk and AIDS?

Learn more at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/atrisk.htm>



MY SEX MY LIFE | *Gram Bharati Samiti, India*

What does this image say about girls in relation to AIDS?
Have you ever felt empowered? And disempowered? When?

Learn more at:

http://www.unicef.org/girlseducation/index_focus_aids.html



WORK AGAINST AIDS | *Outside the Dream, Uganda*

How do the images in this tile relate to the words?
How have you experienced loss in your life?

Learn more at:

<http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm>



DONT FEAR TO BUY CONDOMS | Mankind Artists
Against AIDS, Tanzania

Why is condom use important in the fight against AIDS?
Why might someone be afraid to purchase condoms?

Learn more at:

<http://www.fda.gov/oashi/aids/condom.html>



SIX VIRTUES | Maitreya Universal Education Project, India

Do you see a unifying theme in this tile? If so, what is it?
When have you felt vulnerable and had to trust someone?

Learn more at:

<http://www.thebody.com/content/art30896.html>



PEOPLE WITH AIDS NEED LOVE | Maitreya Universal
Education Project, India

Why do you think the artist might have chosen this message?
When have you felt stigmatized?

Learn more at:

<http://www.avert.org/aidsstigma.htm>



PROTEGETE | Peace Corps, Costa Rica

What message do you think the artist is trying to convey?
What are some ways to prevent mother-to-child transmission?

Learn more at:

http://www.unicef.org/aids/index_preventionMTCT.html

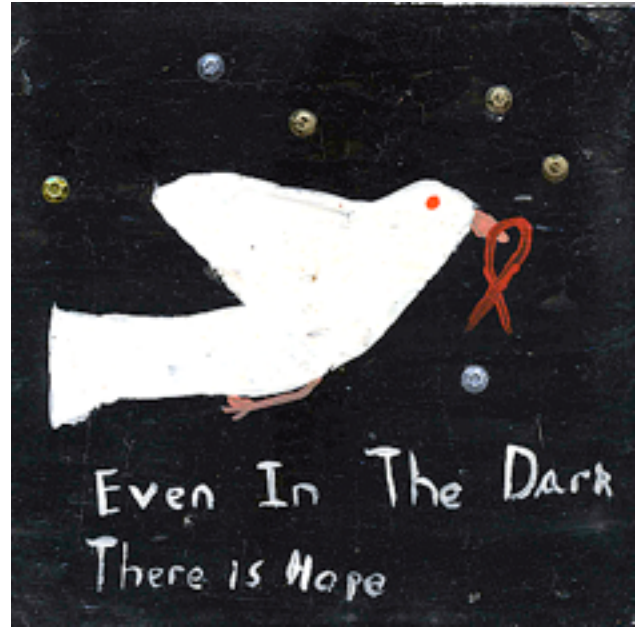


FOR YOU | *Life Home Project, Thailand*

What is the attitude suggested by this tile?
 What do you think the artist wants to share?

Learn more at:

<http://www.avert.org/teencondoms.htm>



THERE IS HOPE | *Life in Africa Foundation, Uganda*

What relationships do you see between AIDS and hope?
 What does darkness represent to you in this image?

Learn more at:

<http://www.who.int/hiv/photostories/en/index.html>



THERE IS PAIN | *Gram Bharati Samiti, India*

What is the message you see in this tile?
 In what ways might HIV/AIDS cause pain?

Learn more at:

<http://www.avert.org/aidsstigma.htm>



FREE AFRICA | *NextAID, South Africa*

How are AIDS, Africa and freedom interconnected?
 How does the artist use "found objects" to make their point?

Learn more at:

<http://www.avert.org/aidsstigma.htm>



BALANCED DIET | *Life Home Project, Thailand*

What is the relationship between food and good health?
Why is diet a concern for people living with HIV/AIDS?

Learn more at:

<http://old.thebody.com/nmai/nutrition.html>



SICK CHILDREN PLAY | *Synergie pour l'enfance, Senegal*

In what ways does this image communicate play?
What might limit HIV positive children's access to play?

Learn more at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/1977757.stm>



SHARING CAN TRANSMIT | *Mankind Artists Against AIDS, Tanzania*

What things that can be shared can also transmit HIV?
Why do we share things, and what makes it hard to resist?

Learn more at:

<http://www.thebody.com/content/prev/art14134.html>



SUPPORT AIDS ORPHANS | *Outside the Dream, Uganda*

In what ways do you think warfare produces orphans?
How is an epidemic like AIDS exacerbated by warfare ?

Learn more at:

http://www.unicef.org/aids/index_armedconflict.html