



BETTER WORLD
FORUM

Exhibition Hands of Peace

by Severine Desmarest, five photographs

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL
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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

UNESCO is pleased to partner with the photographic project of Séverine Desmarest, « Hands of Peace », where the beauty of images joins the force of a humanist ideal at the heart of our mission. This exhibition brings together 30 portraits in black and white, men and women around the world, famous or anonymous, engaged in peace initiatives. All share that fervor to build a more egalitarian world, with more rights, quality education for all. These initiatives demonstrate the vigor of New Humanism so precious to the UNESCO. New Humanism reflects the energy constantly renewed from men and women to enforce the requirement of human dignity, while facing the challenges of our time. New Humanism is to work so each human being is actively involved in collective destiny, including the most marginalized. It is to revive the old promise of freedom in front of the threats of climate change, modern conflicts and growing inequality.

« Hands of Peace » brings a contemporary witness as a call to action, an invitation to everyone to become a responsible citizen and actor of progress. Those hands tell us that it is possible, we can do it. Through these portraits, UNESCO wishes to reaffirm the possibility for everyone to participate in the construction of the human community, to form a deeper cooperation between cultures, and a humanity more united around common projects.

Irina Bokova
Directrice générale de l'UNESCO,
pour L'exposition Mains de la Paix

Forest Whitaker - USA

Whitaker Peace & Development Initiative

Actor, director and internationally renowned producer, Forest Whitaker has moved millions of viewers with his interpretation of Charlie Parker in Clint Eastwood's *Bird*, in 1988. In 2011, he co-founded the International Institute for Peace, to defend democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the eradication of poverty. A year later, Forest Whitaker created the Peace & Development Initiative (WPDI), this organization alongside communities shaken by conflict and violence. This wonderful man was named Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO for Peace and Reconciliation in 2011.



Sharon Stone - USA

"Peace Summit Award" 2013 for her activity in favor of the fight against AIDS.

Hollywood star, the actress and American film producer has always sought to help the most fragile and lead a life of integrity, although under the spotlight. Strong and committed woman, she notably founded « Planet Hope » association, to protect nature and children. Very involved in the fight against AIDS, she is, as such, ambassador of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, including the Dalai Lama also awarded her with the Peace Prize, in Warsaw in 2013.



Amma Mata Amaritanandamayi - India

NGO Embracing the World

Born in 1953 into a poor family in southern India, Amma followed, from her earliest age, an exceptional spiritual life, through her empathy, her hours of meditation and praises to God. «Through me flows an incessant river of love» she affirms. One who is considered Mahatma - «Great Soul» in Sanskrit - hugged and comforted more than 34 million people. Amma founded the NGO « Embracing The World » that helps the poorest in India, regardless of their social, cultural or religious origins. In 2002 she received the Gandhi-King Peace Prize and in 2006 the Interreligious Price James Morton



Denis Mukwege - Democratic Republic of Congo

Sakharov Prize 2014

Nicknamed «The man who repairs women,» Denis Mukwege is a Congolese gynecologist who has dedicated his life to rescuing women and children victims of sexual abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country where gang rape is used as a weapon of war. The Panzi hospital, which he founded, was able to «fix» the mutilated bodies of 40 000 women and children since the late 1990s. Cited several times for the Nobel Peace Prize, he received many decorations including the Sakharov Prize in 2014. His engagement was traced in two documentary films: « Congo, a doctor to save women », Angela Diabang (2014), and « The man who repairs women : Anger of Hippocrates, Thierry Michel and Colette Braeckman (2015).



Maissa



Séverine Desmarest

Séverine Desmarest, after studying law, political science and literacy, discovered her real passion: photography and threw herself in its world autonomously. Her work was rewarded in 1998 with the AGFA prize for her black and white author photographs. After numerous works and exhibitions for the Parisian National Opera and the Comédie Française, she now dedicates herself to the realization of the exhibition The Hands of Peace.

It is this love of another that Severine Desmarest has managed to capture in each of the 30 portraits of the exhibition Hands of Peace.

For over 10 years, she carefully selected each of personalities public figures or unknown, who all share this dedication to world peace.

Recognized for its general interest, Hands of Peace association was created in 2008 around Séverine Desmarest's exhibition project.

UNESCO became an official partner of Hands of Peace from its beginning because the project fully carries the spirit to promote education for peace through its actions.

