



The Vanishing Tribes of Burma

an exhibition with photographs by Richard K. Diran

September 28th-30th in Yangon

Richard K. Diran's photographs are considered the most complete set of existing pictures documenting the ethnic tribes in Burma. Many of the cultural traditions of these tribes portrayed are extinct today.

We have put together an exhibition looking to bring the issue of national reconciliation to the public eye through the inspiring images of the ethnic diversity in the region.

Aung San Suu Kyi has agreed to open the exhibition for a, by invitation only event, that will be followed by the opening of the exhibition to the public.

After the event, the entire collection will be donated to the National Museum in Yangon, to share with generations to come.

We hope that you, the press, are interested in covering this event. Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.



The Event

The exhibition will encompass 70 images showing the diverse tribes and cultures that make up Burma. It will take place at The Grand Ballroom at the Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon.

www.inyalakehotel.com

September 28th - The Opening

The opening will be attended by Aung San Suu Kyi and be a by invitation only event. We are creating an event looking to gain maximum publicity for the hopeful message of unity and reconciliation in Burma. If you, as members of the press, are interested in attending the event, please let us know and we will facilitate your attendance.

September 29th - 30th

The exhibition is open to the public for two days at the Inya Lake Hotel location before it is handed over to the National Museum in Yangon.



The Grand Ballroom - Inya Lake Hotel



The Images

Richard's images were launched at the United Nations in London for The Decade of the World's Indigenous People in 1997. The book "The Vanishing Tribes of Burma" was published later that year in England by Weidenfeld & Nicolson. It was later published in America by Amphoto Books and later in France by Gründ.

The lush photography of this pictorial study of tribes—many of whom have never been recorded on film—makes it one of the most evocative cultural portraits ever published. As an anthropological study, the 35 tribes of Burma reflect the wide diversity of this nation's races. Richard K. Diran, an American photographer/writer, visited and recorded the tribes of Burma for 20 years.

To view more images go to:

www.thevanishingtribesofburma.com



54-56 University Avenue
Rangoon

Burma

13 December '98

Dear Mr. Dora..

Thank you very much for your lovely book on the tribes of Burma. It is a beautiful representation of our peoples, particularly because you obviously regard them with respect and warm understanding. Every time I look at the picture of the girl on the cover I remember that it was the kindness with which you gave her back her ornaments that made her smile so sunny and genuine.

Aung San Suu Kyi's letter to Richard after she received the book "The Vanishing Tribes of Burma"



continued....

I hope that we will have the opportunity to meet some day and that you will be able to do more work with and for the people for whom you have so much sympathy.

May I take the opportunity of wishing you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Ang San Sun Kiji



The Artist

Richard K. Diran is a graduate gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America. He is also an artist who graduated from Walt Disney's California Institute of Art in 1972 and then sailed to Japan where he earned a black belt in karate.

Painting since he was 13 with Italian master Carmello Di Simone he later began to sculpt in bronze and marble.

Traveling to Burma in 1980 buying and selling gemstones, Diran wandered further afield closer to the source of the finest ruby and sapphire in the world and encountered various tribes which had been largely untouched for decades. Fascinated he began his studies of the diverse tribes and decided to record as many as he could in every region of the country.

Having photographed over 35 ethnic tribes in Burma, over more than 20 years, he then had his book "The Vanishing Tribes of Burma" published Weidenfeld & Nicolson and launched at the United Nations for "the Decade of the Worlds indigenous peoples" in London. Later published in the United States and in France the book is accepted to be the most comprehensive collection of tribal photography assembled since Sir George Scott over one hundred years earlier.

Many of the original cultures and practices of these peoples have in only the last decade disappeared and Diran's is the only complete record of Burmese tribal images. www.diranart.com



The Sponsor

The exhibition “The Vanishing Tribes of Burma” is funded in full, by The Swedish Postcode Lottery.

The Swedish Postcode Lottery is the largest lottery in Sweden with over one million subscribers participating every month. The lottery’s vision is to contribute to a better world and since the inception in 2005 the Swedish Postcode Lottery has donated 3,8 billion SEK to charities for people, nature, animals, health, welfare and culture, both in Sweden and in the rest of the world. Together with the associate lotteries in Holland and the UK, the Swedish Postcode Lottery is the world’s third largest private donor to charitable causes.

www.postkodlotteriet.se



The Producers

The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society are together with artists Richard K. Diran arranging this photo exhibition.

SPAS is the world's oldest and Scandinavia's largest peace organisation. It was formed in 1883 by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Klas Pontus Arnoldson. The organisation is politically and religiously independent. SPAS is a non-profit organisation with approximately 7500 individual members. We initiate debates and spread knowledge through seminars, articles, manifestations and letter-writing campaigns. We also support peace projects in different parts of the world and work together with international partners to achieve our goals.

Our major aims are to ease tensions, advocate peaceful conflict resolution, speed up disarmament, promote transformation of military resources into development and support democratisation. We believe that conflicts can be solved with peaceful means.

www.svenska-freds.se





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