

LA FUENTE FOUNDATION

An arts and education partnership

Introduction

La Fuente Foundation has set up a 5 year arts and education programme designed to:

- stimulate debate amongst young people and empower them to positively influence local and global change
- build and promote awareness, through discussion and artistic expression, about global issues from a local perspective
- encourage contemporary artists and young people to work together to express their ideas through the visual arts

Working with young people in up to 10 countries, and facilitating discussion and creative exploration between them, La Fuente supports the development of visual arts based on key themes. The themes include – conflict, identity, migration, climate change and the economy – and have been shaped and defined by the young people themselves.

They are supported by an artist interested in working with development themes, and they get to choose a theme for their work. Through workshops, the provision of stimulus material around the theme, and dialogue with other young people across the globe, the students develop original art pieces to reflect their reactions to the chosen theme. At the end of the programme there will be an exhibition of key pieces in some or all of the participating cities.

La Fuente was established in 2008 in the UK, and has been running a pilot programme for the last 6 months between 2 schools – Seven Kings School in east London and Liceo Artistico Boccioni in Milan.

Over the period of the project we have run 3 interactive workshops, facilitating discussion around their chosen theme of conflict and identity. We have been privileged to work with two exciting young artists with a passion for development issues - in London, the Ghanaian born Gottfried Donkor and in Milan, the young Italian artist Silvia Paolino.





A facilitated blog has encouraged the sharing of ideas and art works between the schools.

The success so far – in terms of the engagement of the young people, the creativity of the solutions and issues discussed, and the quality of the art being developed – has been the impact made on the schools and communities in which we have worked. The first partnership programme will soon come to fruition, with exhibitions in London and Milan scheduled for July 2009.

We are pleased to be working with a range of partners including representatives from the Whitechapel Gallery, Kingston University, Institute of Education, Social Development Direct, Tasneem Gallery, and the Humanities Education Centre. Our partners have been recruited to assure the artistic excellence and educational merit of the project.

Everything that has been achieved so far has been solely through the endeavours of volunteers and enthusiastic schools. We now have the opportunity to take the project on to the next phase – rolling the programme out to 8 other countries and establishing the partnerships between them.



<p>Comments from a participating student and teacher</p>	<p>“Through participating in this project I’ve been encouraged to create Artwork with more meaning behind it. The La Fuente team have opened my mind up to bigger and more political issues in the world.”</p> <p>“La Fuente has given my students exposure to new ideas and the opportunity to share ideas with students in Milan. As a result, they have got to express ideas in alternative ideas, sparking off each other and the artist and they have created an excellent range of informed art works”</p>	<p><i>Jessica May Year 13 Art student Seven Kings High School</i></p> <p><i>Despoulla Ioannou Learning Leader of Art & Design Seven Kings High School</i></p>  
<p>La Fuente Foundation, c/o Social Development Direct, Central Hall, Storeys Gate, London SW1H 9NH</p>		