

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Fulbright-Nehru Artist Paints Murals promoting Education for Girls in India

Varanasi, India September 2, 2017: US artist Augustina Droze creates public murals around the world that raise awareness for social causes. To complete her work as a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Scholar with Banaras Hindu University, the artist is now completing a large-scale project focused on class and gender rights in India, with a focus on girl's education. The (soon to be completed) five murals—which were conceived and painted beginning in January, 2017, in the cities of Nagpur and Varanasi—highlight an ongoing movement in India towards providing education for all people. This represents a cultural shift that could dramatically alter the course of the country, and its people.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a government program, created in response to the eighty-sixth amendment of the Indian Constitution, making education free and required for all children ages six to fourteen. However, simply opening the doors to education is not enough to persuade all students and their families to walk through the threshold. Children can still commonly be seen begging on the street or working at menial labor jobs. What is needed is a shift in societal perception, to convince families that their children need to go to school. In India, such a shift can come through cultural cues and visual imagery.

Droze's process is to engage local artists to work with her in designing and creating the massive murals, which promote the empowerment of women and girls, and convey the message that girls can and should be educated. Young girls are among the most vulnerable in Indian society. Without education, they are often subjected to child marriage and human trafficking. The murals Droze and her team create send a larger than life message, intended to promote community dialogue among viewers, especially those who cannot read or write. Besides creating the five large murals, Droze has held numerous workshops, and will have an exhibition of her paintings. To see the artist's current work in India visit:
<http://www.communitymural empowerment.portfoliobox.net/>

This is the most recent in a long list of social action murals Droze has created around the world. Her work has focused on such issues as equality, environmentalism, and crime. She is the recipient of numerous commissions from public agencies across the U.S., including The Chicago Public Art Group, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts, and the Indianapolis Arts Council. In 2015 she created a mural with artists in Cali, Colombia about female empowerment at the Colombo Americano, a Meridian International and US Department of State initiative. Augustina's work as a Fulbright Nehru Senior Scholar will conclude in early September.

Augustina Droze is the proprietor of Augustina Droze Studio, Inc.

Contact: Augustina Droze

+86-18612518772

augustina@augustinadroze.com

Artist website: www.augustinadroze.com

###

