



A PROJECT BY KURT HOERBST



BIDESHI PHOTOSTUDIO

in Rudrapur, Bangladesh



When wandering through rural Bangladesh with a camera in your hand the sentence „Bideshi...chobi, chobi...! – Stranger! Take a photo of me!“ will soon be heard all around. An unbelievably delighted eagerness to be photographed is definitely there.

When Kurt Hoerbst met and fell for the village Rudrapur and its dwellers in 2005 the idea for the project BIDESHI Photostudio was founded.

People in Rudrapur live simple, agriculture and craftsmanship dominate everyday life. Family itself as the highest rated value in society, is nevertheless rarely preserved in a photograph as it would be in more western parts of the world...

Technology and the arts simply are too far away or not affordable- up until...

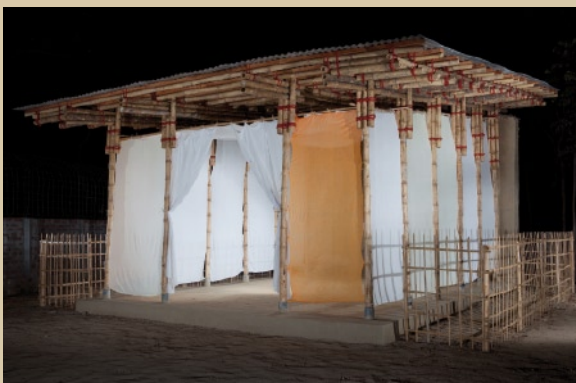
The project BIDESHI Photostudio, which started off in December 2008 after intense preparations and diligent planning by Austrian Kurt Hoerbst, first and foremost provided a welcome opportunity to earn money for the men of Rudrapur. The experienced bamboo and clay specialists constructed a simple but impressive building within a month's work – by hand! The hut and the entire project were organised in cooperation with Dipshikha, a well-established organisation in Rudrapur. As a close neighbour to the Meti-school, which is well-renowned through various prizes in architecture, the daylight studio offered locals to be photographed professionally from the beginning of February 2009. A glass roof and light Sari-fabrics on the side walls created a soft ambience in combination with the clay ground and back wall.

While project assistant Alexandra Grill took digital photos of the families, Kurt Hoerbst photographed the villagers analogue in a large format system. Single portraits in front of the even clay background of course had to be taken as well!

The digital data was edited, printed and laminated the same and passed on to the curious models the next day. Surprised by their image (and often amused) they usually welcomed their photographs with great fascination.

An exhibition for interested Europeans, as well as a series of bound photographs has now been developed with the analogue picture material.

Studiodesign: Anna Heringer



In Rudrapur the photo studio is continued by Dipshika, who already assisted the "Bideshis" in February and March. After gaining some photographic experience at "Patashala School of Photography" in Dhaka, a young and ambitious villager will use the resources provided to keep the photo project ongoing.







KURT HOERBST



Born in Austria in 1972.

Having been originally educated in telecommunications, he then turned to photography beginning his studies in Prague in 1992.

Kurt founded a school of photography in Austria in 1996 and now teaches history of photography, journalism and he gives lectures at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences.

Publisher of three books and multiple prize winner in this field.

Kurt's work has enjoyed numerous exhibitions both home and abroad.

Over the last years, multimedia projects have been a focal point of his activities.

Publications:

„Überlebt – Menschenbilder Lagerbilder“ - 1999

„Der schwarze Ritter“ - 2001

„Sommerschnee“ - 2008

Exhibitions, Performances (Selection)

2006 From village to town – Dhaka / Bangladesh

2006 „staTdT_kunst“ - Zurich

2007 „staTdT_kunst“ - Amsterdam

2008 „Lichtspuren“ – Lentos Linz

2008 „StaTdT_kunst“ Athens

2008 Backlight 08 / Tampere / Finland

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ALEXANDRA GRILL

(Assistance)



Born 1974, living in Rome, Graz, Roßleithen, Vienna
Study of pedagogic and philosophy, then teaching nine years in elementary school

Study of artistic photography at the private college “Prager Fotoschule Österreich” from 2003 to 2006

Different photographic works on portrait, surroundings and reportages (Afghanistan, Bangladesch...)

Single exhibition “über a frau” (about a woman)

Windischgarsten, Kirchdorf and Vienna (Austria),

Vilnius (Lithuania) at Vilnius Photo Circle 2008

Group exhibition “Identity” at Kefermarkt (A) and Prague (Czech Republic)

Currently:

... working on several photo series

... lecture for “theoretical aspects of photography” and “reportage – photography” at the PFSÖ

... realization of a book–project with an Austrian writer

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