

DIE GROSSE SCHATZKISTE FÜR DIE KINDER DER ZUKUNFT

BIG TREASURE CHEST FOR FUTURE KIDS

production in

GHANA

**workshop + launch of the project in Accra
march 2007**





The Accra

Daily Mail

Friday March 23, 2007

GHS 4,000

Big Treasure Chest launched

Ghana@100

To be opened in 2057
How many of
present generation
would be alive then?!



Dr. Pierre Hoffman

How many of the current generation of Ghanaians would be alive when Ghana celebrates her 100th anniversary? Only a few of the Ghana@50 generation would be alive in another 50 years to witness Ghana's first century, but some people have already started preparing towards that end. In the hustle and bustle of fault-finding politics that Ghanaians seem to enjoy so much these days, many great human-interest stories to warm the heart get either sidetracked or totally ignored. If it is not NDC that, it must be NPP this, or Kufuor there, Fawlings here!

Contd. on page 8





The workshop got great attention by the media.



Teachers from the 10 regions participated.



Pierre Hoffmann with Joyce Akrah, GTV.

Implementation of the project in Ghana.

Coordinated by Korkor Amarteifio the project took off in Ghana since January 2007. National body of production is the Institute for Music and Development (IMD), Accra.

Kofi Setordji and his team of artists at ArtHaus have created the Ghana Big Treasure Chest for Future Kids. It became an object representing the diversity of cultures throughout the country. Its size is big enough to be entered by a person upright. In a prominent ceremony it has been handed over to the public end of march 2007. It is exposed since then in front of the National Museum.

The countrywide implementation of the project started with a workshop attended by all cooperating organizations and 45 teachers from all the 10 regions of Ghana.

Overhead producer Pierre Hoffmann (FAUST Film+Project, Berlin) introduced to the method of working with the project. Steps of pedagogical elaboration were developed in a common discussion at the workshop.

In coming months the teachers will organize participation of schools, local partners, villages etc. within their regions. This is planned for the period mai - september 2007.

In a further step the Messages resulting from this process will be collected and presented at regional exhibitions. All activities are documented and artistically supported by the ArtHaus Team and by the production team of the ghanaiian film. The press reports continuously. Ghana Television (gtv) is preparing a 10 part tv series, coordinated by Joyce Ankrah.

Starting september the Treasure Chest goes on tour through the regions. At the end of 2007 a summarizing exhibition, curated by Kofi Sejtordji, takes place at the National Museum. The whole production ends with a prominent event and a ceremony of closing the Treasure Chest.



Annette Braun, EED / Korkor Amarteifio, IMD.



Bernard Akoi-Jackson, ArtHaus / Doris Otu-Danquah, GES / Pierre Hoffmann / Korkor Amarteifio / Annette Braun / Elizabeth Quarmyne, GES.



Christine Klusmann, EED / Korkor Amarteifio.

The following organizations cooperate in the process of production:

- > Institute for Music and development (IMD) is the national central of production and responsible for its implementation. National coordinator is Korkor Amarteifio.
- > Ghana Education Service (GES) represented by Elizabeth Quarmyne and Doris Otu-Danquah in cooperation with
- > Vocational Training for Women (VTF) represented by Comfort Ntiamoah-Mensah.
- > ArtHaus Accra, represented by Kofi Setordji and his team of artists.
- > Idea, concept and global overhead producer FAUST Film+Projekt GmbH / cultural projects international, represented by Pierre Hoffmann.

Sponsoring:

- > Main sponsor is EED (Evangelical Development Service), based in Bonn / Germany. The holistic and future orientated character of the Treasure Chest project is close to the mandate of EED and its activities with partners in the South - involved in programmes of social justice, participation and empowerment of civil society.
- > The project in Ghana is also partially sponsored by the European Commission (EU).
- > Further sponsors should be accessed. They may use the project for a positive publicity.

The entire global project is supported by UNESCO, Paris, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue and by the German Commission for UNESCO.

It is listed project of "Dialogue Among Civilizations" of UNITED NATIONS.

Peace Nobel prised HH the Dalai Lama calls for worldwide support of the project.

Treasure Chest Ghana in the making at ArtHaus



Launch of the Treasure Chest at the National Museum Accra



Pierre Hoffmann, FAUST Film+Projekt



Korkor Amarteifo, IMD national coordinator



Annette Braun, EED



Guy Samzun, EU with Pierre and Senna unveiling the Treasure Chest



Kofi Setordji has created the Ghana Treasure Chest together with his team of ArtHaus. He is also the artistic director of the entire project in Ghana.

His son Senna is also part of the team.



Kofi Setordji about:

THE STOOL

(Big Treasure Chest for Future Kids – The Ghana project 2007-2057)
Having been commissioned as early as 2005, the building of the Treasure Chest for Ghanaian children eventually took off at the close of January 2007 at the ArthAUS in Agbogba, North of Accra. Prior to its building, Kofi Setordji, director of the ArthAUS and Artistic Director in charge of creative conception for the Treasure Chest Project, had designed the chest, produced a sketch model (which would witness marked alteration during the course of production) and had rallied a team of artists and craftsmen to assist in undertaking the chest building and decoration project.

The Concept

Setordji's research led him to arrive at the decision to employ the concept and form of the traditional Ghanaian stool. A symbol that aptly captures the sense of history, cultural heritage and future aspirations, the traditional stool is an embodiment of multilayered signification. It served as seating for ordinary domestic use in the past, but currently serves as ceremonial seating especially for royals. The mundane duty of the stool has presently been taken up by what is now called 'the kitchen stool'. The kitchen stool, a work of mass produced carpentry is less ornamented and very simple in design. The traditional stool however, is a work of indigenous artistry and by its intricate design and ornamentation, communicates the rank, status and importance of its occupant.

In the past and still in certain royal homesteads, a stool is basically carved for ordinary use but upon the death of a particular stool's occupant, it assumes sacred status if the occupant is deemed to have led an exemplary life, after it has gone through a consecratory process of 'Blackening'. This is done by the application of a special concoction of soot, eggs and other staining agents onto the stool. When this process is through, the blackened stool is housed in a stool room, a special traditional museum that stores all other blackened stools of the ancestral lineage. To get one's stool blackened and kept in the stool room then becomes a very high honour in the traditional Ghanaian setting.

The Making

The general building and forming of the chest took a whole week and was the work of Roger Boi-Nortey, a very experienced metal fabricator and welder, who had hitherto been involved in the construction and installation of such structures as fuel stations and the fabrication of metal shelves for certain shops. He received expert supervision from Kofi Setordji, who is himself an adept at working metal, whilst Bernard Akoi-Jackson provided assistance where necessary.

The Finishing

After the initial building, anti-rust paint was applied onto the chest. Meanwhile the art directing team, comprising Kofi Setordji and Bernard Akoi-Jackson, had met several times to discuss the concept for finishing the chest. Painting and decoration started in earnest after the skilled services of Master Kudjo, a fine sprayer, with a broad hearty smile had been sought. Nicholas T. Wayo a young and enterprising member of the sign writing and Ghanaian contemporary art scene, with Isaac Djan (Gbeke Tee.) a colleague of his, began working on the painting of the chest. Later, Benedict Kojo Quaye (Mr. Black), himself an artist/poet, brought the deft touch of his brush to the finishing process.

The Finishing Concept

Since the chest, built in the form of a traditional royal stool is the symbol of Ghana in the larger "Big Treasure Chest for Future Kids" project, the aim is to communicate the idea of Ghana in a culturally forceful way devoid of the heavy dependence on such clichéd cultural references as Adinkra symbology or the ubiquitous Kente aesthetic, etc. And though it can be argued that 'the stool' may also be located among such banal Ghanaian cultural references, its preference here is informed by the need to aspire to the special relevance it accords the entire project, as it reiterates the concepts of memory, remembrance and posterity.

Even though the chest takes the basic design of a traditional stool it is not painted to 'tautologize' the stool concept. Rather, fresh inspiration is tapped from the 'Bambolse' wall decoration tradition of the Upper East Region to paint the upper parts and front of the chest, as a signification of the uppermost and northern parts of the country. The middle belt of the country is signified by the painting of the sides of the chest to reference the walls of Asante shrine architecture, while the coast is signified with a reference to the Asafo flag aesthetic at the back or southern end of the chest. Incorporated into the flag is the map of Ghana indicating all expected points of call of the chest throughout the country.

For the outdoor ceremony of the Ghana Treasure Chest at the National Museum, Accra, "Baba Tailor" (a community clothes mender) was commissioned to sew a fabric covering for the chest. Incorporated into the covering is the Ghanaian flag.

Kofi Setordji, Accra march 2007



During the workshop the teachers agreed on the consultations with GES leaders and leaders of the community to get commitments, workshops and training sessions with teachers, artists and others in the community who work with children.

They decided to include also those who are not in school, such as street children, the handicapped and discussed ways in which to get the best out of the children through brainstorming and discussions on various themes.

Teachers also agreed that the treasure chest will travel to 4 regions only so as to save cost and wear and tear of the chest but would stop on the communities along the way for children to see it and that each region will create unique activities around the collection of the messages.

Korkor Amarteifio, IMD





The Accra

Daily Mail

Friday, March 23, 2007

G4,000

Big Treasure Chest launched

Ghana@100

To be opened in 2057

How many of
present generation
would be alive then?!



Dr. Pierre Hoffman

How many of the current generation of Ghanaians would be alive when Ghana celebrates her 100th anniversary? Only a few of the Ghana@50 generation would be alive in another 50 years to witness Ghana's first century, but some people have already started preparing towards that end. In the hustle and bustle of fault-finding politics that Ghanaians seem to enjoy so much these days, many great human-interest stories to warm the heart get either sidetracked or totally ignored. If it is not NDC that it must be NPP this, or Kufuor there, Rawlings here!

Contd. on page 8

Ghana@100

Contd. From front page

One small step, but giant leap for Ghana @ 100 was taken last weekend. A project, "The Big Treasure Chest Ghana" which will contain messages for future generations was launched at the National Museum in Accra following a two-day workshop aimed at sensitizing teachers, who will assist children in implementing the project.

The project, which is national, cultural and communications-based is dedicated not only to the young generation of today but also future generations is aimed at understanding diversity as well as promoting national and international dialogue among

cultures.

Launching the treasure chest, Dr. Pierre Hoffman of the Faust Film+Project in Germany said it is an important opportunity for Ghanaian children to express their wishes, aspirations and dreams to future generations. He said the launch was quite significant, since it is being done to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence.

Hoffmann, who initiated the project, said the treasure chest has been successfully organised in fourteen countries where children participated with great enthusiasm. He stated that the project is not only dedicated to the future but it is also a catalyst for a process of communication among children within various

participating countries.

The countries are Belarus, Canada (Inuit), Germany, Greece, Phillipines, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Tibet, South Africa, Tanzania and Cameroon. Switzerland, Benin and Sudan are preparing to participate.

Children, Dr. Hoffman said would articulate their values for their own future as well as those who are not yet born in a creative language. The project, he explained, represents a special kind of globalization.

Supported by the Church Development Service (EED Germany) the project seeks to encourage Ghanaian children aged between eight and sixteen years to create personal messages which would be addressed to people

who will be alive in 2057, when Ghana celebrates her 100th independence anniversary. Children would be guided by teachers and other resource persons to freely express their messages through various materials found in their immediate environs. These could be in the form of letters, paintings, sculptures as well as other means deemed convenient by the participants. All these messages would be stored in a huge "Treasure Chest" created by members of ArtHaus led by the internationally acclaimed Ghanaian sculptor Kofi Setordji. It is cast in metal and embellished with motifs and symbols from various parts of Ghana.

Elssy Revess (left) and Tina Osei, both prominent film actresses

The Big Treasure Chest For Future Kids

By Jonathan Gmanyami

THE Big Treasure Chest For Future Kids," a project that encourages children today to communicate and work cooperatively with each other, and also think about children of a future generation who are not yet born was launched last Sunday at the National Museums in Accra.

Dr Pierre Hoffmann of FAUST Film + Project GmbH - Cultural Projects International, Berlin, Germany (Initiator and global overhead producer of the project) assisted by Sena Setordji, an 11-year-old pupil of University Primary School, Legon performed the launching ceremony.

A two-day workshop was held at the GNAT Hall in Accra for over 20 teachers from all the 10 regions preceded the launching ceremony. It was to

sensitize them on how the kids would present their messages which have to do with their environment, using local materials and thoughts.

It was supported by EDD, Church Development Service (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst-EDD) Bonn, Germany and Institute of Music and Development, Accra in cooperation with Art Haus, Kofi Setordji, Ghana Education Service, Vocational Training for Females Programme, Elizabeth Quaymyne, Comfort Ntiamoah Mensah and Futher Partners and Korkor-Amarteifio, Co-ordinator.

Global support is by UNESCO.

The project will prompt children to think about those who will be young when they are grand parents. It also challenges them to think about their own circumstances, about their values and what they appreciate

and would like to share with children of the future, transcending differences of nationality and faith and building bridges between the peoples of the world.

The basic concept of The Big Treasure Chest for Future Kids is that, in each of the participating countries artists and crafts men build a beautiful and big treasure chest. It is addressed to those who will live in the year 2050. This big treasure chest for future kids is the central symbol of the entire project in Ghana.

In Ghana it has been created by famous artist Kofi Setordji which is an expression of the specific cultural tradition. It is dedicated to those who will live 50 years from now, at the 100th celebration of our independence.

In schools and groups all over the country, boys and girls, 8-15 years old, are guided to create a personal message, addressed to those who will live 50 years from now. What are the values they want to share with them? What do they think important to be communicated to them? Elders, educators and teachers work with the children.

They make them discuss and think about the continuity of generations. Finally each child creates his/her message. It can be in writing, a drawing, a carved piece of wood or stone, a sculpture etc. — or even an object which has a special meaning. This participation of illiterate children is also possible. Each child has to write in a few words- or dic-

tate it to someone — what he/she wants to say by this message to those who are not yet born.

The kid's messages are to be stored in the Ghanaian Treasure Chest, which is the central symbol of the entire project. It travels throughout the country to collect the messages.

The project has so far been realised in 14 countries worldwide. Examples images, films from these countries are made available to educators and kids. They learn about what others, in different parts of the world have done with the project. They experience that individual participation in an international context.

All activities during the production period are documented. Photographs are taken of the Treasure Chest and of kids with their messages. Finally the messages are enclosed in the treasure chest. In the National Museum a summarising exhibition takes place, completed by large images of treasure chests from other countries and examples of messages.

The whole process of production is accompanied by media coverage. A film of 25 minutes is produced. All messages are documented. The exhibition presents the project to a general audience of adults.

At the end, a concluding ceremony takes place, attended by eminent personalities. The chest gets closed. It represents the continuity of generations and remains in the National Museum as an innovative element of the cultural heritage of Ghana.



Kids waiting with their messages at the final ceremony in Dar-es-Salaam.



NO. 1982

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007

¢5,000

Vice president, Adu Ocran

Workshop On Treasure Chest Ghana Ends

A TWO-DAY workshop aimed at sensitizing teachers on the impending Big Treasure Chest for Future Kids ended last week at the Teachers Hall in Accra.

The project, which is a national, cultural and communications based is dedicated to the young generations of today, future generations, diversity as well as national and international dialogue among cultures.

Supported by the Church Development Service (EED Germany) the project seeks to encourage Ghanaian kids aged between eight and sixteen years to create personal messages which would be addressed to people who will be alive in 2057, when Ghana celebrates its 100th Independence Anniversary.

Kids would be guided by teachers and other resource persons to freely express their messages through various materials found in their immediate environs. These could be in the form of letters, paintings, sculptures as well as other means deemed convenient by the kids.

All these messages would be stored in a huge Treasure Chest; which was created by

members of ArtHaus led by the internationally acclaimed sculptor Kofi Setordji. It is cast in metal and embellished with motifs and symbols from various parts of Ghana.

Launching the treasure chest at the National Museum in Accra, Dr. Pierre Hoffmann of the Faust Film+Project in Germany said it is an important opportunity for Ghanaian kids to express their wishes, aspirations and dreams to the future generation adding that it is quite significant since it is being done at the 50th anniversary of Ghana's independence.

Hoffmann, who initiated the project said the treasure chest has been successfully organised in fourteen countries where children participated with great enthusiasm. He stated that the project is not only dedicated to the future but it is also a catalyst for a process of communication among children within various participating countries.

The countries are Belarus, Canada (Inuit), Germany, Greece, Phillipines, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Tibet, South Africa, Tanzania and Cameroon. Switzerland, Benin and Sudan are preparing

to participate.

Kids Dr. Hoffmann said would articulate their values for their own future as well as those who are not yet born in a creative language stressing that the project represents a special kind of globalization.

With the launching of the Treasure Chest, Ghanaian kids would be content that their voices would be heard by people who be around in 2057 when the box is opened.

Institute Of Music And Development and Ghana Education Service collaborated with Dr. Hoffmann.

FOR SALE

KIA Sephia

Slightly Used with power steering/ windows, Auto sunroof and aircondition



report:

Annette Braun

Pierre Hoffmann

FAUST Film+Projekt © 2007

photos: Kofi Setordji, Annette Braun, Pierre Hoffmann