'The Teaching: Father – Son'
Used with the kind permission of Artist James P Simon
The original painting is acrylic on canvas
23.5 x 23.0 cm
© Artist & Gallery Amichi
When we go deep enough or high enough, we meet. It is only on the surface that we differ and sometimes clash... A common measure, irrespective of class or creed or race or colour, is the pivot of the equality we uphold ... it is the only safeguard to peace and progress.

Ameen Rihani
Writer/Poet/Philosopher
1930
BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® is a visual arts/education program which focuses on children, especially those from marginalized, disadvantaged & remote communities.

The Little Ones, children, produce pictures and stories to be showcased in a public art exhibition, alongside work by Australian Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander artists. These artists, the Big Ones, provide inspiration and role models for the Little Ones.

Since 2004, BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® has included more than 1000 children, from 46 communities in 26 countries.
“I liked doing ‘big ones little ones’... I was really proud because my painting was at the art gallery”

“I liked painting and writing the story - the Elders had good ideas. Drawing the fish was a bit tricky!”

“I like to paint for Big Ones Little Ones because I like to learn and pop helps us in the room”

“(Participating in these exhibitions is) a quality learning experience that gives our children the opportunity to work with Elders as they did traditionally – taking time to sit and talk together and receive guidance from the older artists - this has been a valuable experience for our students”

“Often children in small communities such as ours are overlooked in big events such as an Australia wide art exhibition. This (exhibition) gives our children a chance to show their talent.”
Art & education - especially for children

Supporting Australia’s Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultures
The journey so far (2004-2010)

2004
5 schools
Boommali Aboriginal Art Gallery

2005
11 schools
Belle Art & Framing Gallery
Sydney

2006
18 schools \ 6 countries
Boommali Aboriginal Art Gallery
&
NSW Parliament House – Reconciliation Wall

2007
27 schools \ 15 countries
NSW Parliament House
&
The Sydney Children’s Hospital

2008
7 countries (5 new)
Sharjah Museum of Contemporary Arab Art, Sharjah UAE

2009
Works of Excellence
On loan to St. Lucy’s School, Sydney

2010
42 schools
Works of Excellence
Touring Western Sydney Hospitals
Aims & Objectives

- **TO ACKNOWLEDGE & VALUE**: Children’s expression of self, family, relationships, culture and place in the world
- **TO IMPROVE**: Cultural literacy, knowledge, understanding and respect for others, countering stereotyping, racism and discrimination
- **TO ADDRESS**: The issue of lost opportunities, helping children especially to reach their full potential
- **TO CREATE**: A space for reflection, conversation and discussion about issues that affect not only children, but also adults
- **TO PROMOTE**: Dialogue and co-operation for the resolution of differences, rather than aggression and conflict
- **TO RAISE**: Awareness and increase understanding and appreciation of the richness of Australia’s Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander cultures and traditions
**PROGRAM FOCUS**

**Social justice, social harmony**

**EDUCATION**
- Visual arts
- Voice
- Literacy

**COMMUNITY**
- Connections
- Culture
- Knowledge

**CHANGE**
- Empathy
- Understanding
- Respect

**Local & International**
Examples of community locations
Participants

Big & Little
With Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Governor of New South Wales

In Australia, at Parliament House, Sydney

In Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
High level process

- Contact with school/community
- Euraba Art paper and exhibition forms distributed to schools/artists
- Little Ones complete art work – with Artists/Elders
- Art work (with title & story) returned to Gallery Amichi
- Art and artist details checked
- Work photographed and information electronically stored
- Letter of thanks to artists/schools
- Works selected for new exhibition, framed and labels prepared
- Big Ones’ work collected, details noted and information electronically stored
- Invitations for opening event and exhibition sent
- Preparation of exhibition collateral (catalogues, certificates, awards etc)
- Art installed in venue
- Launch of new collection with special guests
- Exhibition continues at venue with tours and workshops
- Exhibition packages sent to all participants
- Evaluation and feedback
Plans for the future

- UWS Exhibition, Sydney (2011)
- Workshops, Nanjing, China (2011)
- Books (2011-2012)
- Partnership, collaboration and building BOLO community
- Further expansion, Australia and international and 1-to-1 school links
- Scholarship program
- Exhibition touring – local, regional, national and international
- Project sustainability
“BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® is an unexpected chance to get my poor children from the far place that is only full with explosive…to be equal with the other children in the world … to show the others their thoughts…”
S. L. MUSTAFA, Director, Hibato Alla Centre, Baghdad, Iraq

“BIG ONES LITTLE ONES® - the first chance our children ever had to show their art and culture to the outside world. To be so proud of their country and of themselves.”
J. BORGES, Director, Besilau School, Dili, E.Timor/Timor Leste

“This project helps reduce isolation…It’s a source of motivation and inspiration for children who have known nothing but life in exile in refugee camps……it also contributes to more understanding and friendship between young people from different backgrounds and cultures.”
K. FADEL, Ambassador, Western Sahara
In conclusion

What’s important?
To be educated; to play.

My friends are important to me. Why?
Because Sibusiso is my best friend
I like to draw
It was so nice doing this
I like making art!

‘My words to the world’
From GEORGE, Age 8
South Africa
Gallery Amichi wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who have supported and contributed to this program.

TEXT AND IMAGES

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Appendix 1 – Art and Artists

1. Big Hand Little Hand, K. Davis, Aust. ‘04
2. Together at the River, A. McGrady, Aust. ‘07
3. Women within community, J. Martin, Aust. 07
5. Turtle, E. Combo, Aust. ‘06
6. Trucks & Flowers, V. Soares, E. Timor ‘04
7. Big & Small Sacred Houses, C. de Oliveira, E. Timor ‘04
8. Wisteria, Y. Deng, China ‘09
9. Festival, J. Zhang, China ‘09
10. Iraq is in my heart, M. Imam, Iraq ‘07
11. Drum, Horn – Traditional, A. Carvalho, East Timor ‘05
12. Untitled, N. Labeid, Western Sahara ‘07
Appendix 2 - Bibliography

Information relating to the significant role that art has in childhood development, education, learning, communication, culture and society is sourced from the following:

- Kolbe U 2006 Rapunzel’s Supermarket – All about young children and their art. Pademelon Press Australia

The following documents are taken from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – Road Map for Arts Education, The World Conference on Arts Education: Building Creative Capacities for the 21st Century, Lisbon, 6-9 March 2006

- Hong Kong Arts Development Council (HKADC) and Curriculum Development Institute of the Education and Manpower Bureau (EMB) and the Creative Arts Department of the Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd). (2003). Arts-in-Education programme, Hong Kong.
- UNESCO. (2001). In Latin America and the Caribbean: Document based on the principal conclusions of the Regional conference on arts education in Latin America and the Caribbean and subsequent reflections. Uberaba, Brazil. UNESCO.