

# CIVILIAN

ART PROJECTS

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FrontGallery: ***DARFUR/DARFUR***

Project Space: ***Pastime***

From October 24<sup>th</sup> to December 6, 2008, Civilian Art Projects will present two contemporary photography exhibitions: *DARFUR/DARFUR*, a traveling exhibit of images by world renowned photojournalists on the crisis and culture in Darfur, Sudan, curated by Leslie Thomas; and *Pastime*, an exhibition of emerging photographers based in New York and Washington, D.C., curated by Civilian's director and founder, Jayme McLellan.

## **Photographers in *DARFUR/DARFUR* include:**

Lynsey Addario  
Mark Brecke  
Helene Caux  
Ron Haviv (VII)  
James Nachtwey (VII)  
Paolo Pellegrin (MAGNUM)  
Ryan Spencer Reed  
Michal Safdie  
Brian Steidle

Projected worldwide over the past two years on facades of major cultural institutions, the images of *DARFUR/DARFUR* serve as an advocacy tool, a body of evidence, and a stunning visual display on the culture and crisis in Darfur, Sudan. After viewing one of **Brian Steidle's** images of a young girl shot by a Sudan government-owned helicopter gunship, *DARFUR/DARFUR* was created in 2006 by Leslie Thomas, a mother and architect living and working in Chicago, IL. Steidle went to Darfur in 2003 as a U.S. Marine to monitor the peace with the African Union. He photographed what he saw around him: Children hit by bullets, piles of bones and bodies, and villages burning.

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What he witnessed is the subject of the documentary film, *The Devil Came on Horseback*, which will be playing in a loop in the gallery. *The Devil Came on Horseback* is a Break Thru Films production in association with Global Grassroots and Three Generations.

Civilian is honored to present *DARFUR/DARFUR* in support of its fiscal sponsor, the international non-governmental organization **Global Grassroots** ([www.globalgrassroots.org](http://www.globalgrassroots.org)). Through social entrepreneurship training and seed-funding, Global Grassroots helps marginalized women and genocide survivors develop their own ideas for social change. Global Grassroots works in Eastern Chad with refugees from Darfur, Sudan, and with vulnerable women in Rwanda. As the charitable producer of the documentary film, *The Devil Came on Horseback*, and as fiscal sponsor of the *DARFUR/DARFUR* exhibit, Global Grassroots expands global awareness and action on the Darfur crisis.

*DARFUR/DARFUR* includes Brian's photographs and the work of eight photojournalists taken in Darfur-neighborhood Chad from 2003 to the present. "These powerful images of family and culture under attack show us that the face of Darfur is our face – and that we have a collective, urgent responsibility to act," said Leslie Thomas. Thomas created the exhibit to bring the story of the Darfur crisis to the attention of the public and the media.

Edited into three film loops by **J. Matthew Jacob** and accompanied by music from **Abdel Gadir Salim, Brett Fuchs, Rasha, Khalifa Ould Eide** and **Dimi Mint Abba**, the compelling selection of images provides a closer look at the village life, violence, military response, efforts by aid workers, and the dire conditions of refugee camps in Darfur and Chad. Photographs range from blunt reportage to sensitive black and white portraits to almost formal compositions. **Helene Caux**, a Geneva-based photojournalist, has documented the population of a refugee camp in Chad, where 80 percent of the refugees are women and children. She has photographed the women in their brightly-colored clothing, and the moon at dusk, capturing moments of fleeting beauty in the refugee camp. **Mark Brecke**, a documentary filmmaker from Berkeley, has taken black and white photographs of women, children and soldiers. **Paulo Pellegin**/Magnum, a Newsweek photographer born in Rome, has contributed dramatic black and white photographs of refugees living in cities of tents. Legendary war photographers **Ron Haviv** and **James Nachtwey** contribute stunning imagery of life and suffering. New York Times photographer **Lynsey Addario** and photojournalist **Michal Safdie** carefully frame the lives of women and children caught in the war and aftermath, as does the powerful black and white work of emerging photojournalist **Ryan Spencer Reed**.

*DARFUR/DARFUR* has been exhibited at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, the Jewish Museum in Berlin, The Holocaust Centre in Capetown, South Africa, FORMA in Milan, Italy, The Musee des Beaux-Arts in Montreal, The Field Museum in Chicago, IL, the New York Historical Society, and many other venues throughout the world. Each exhibition is a grassroots effort sponsored by the institution and many individuals throughout the world. For more

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information on Global Grassroots visit [www.globalgrassroots.org](http://www.globalgrassroots.org), and for the exhibit, visit [www.darfurdarfur.org](http://www.darfurdarfur.org).

Brian Steidle and Gretchen Steidle Wallace will have a conversation in the gallery about Darfur and their work to aid survivors on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 7:00pm. The event will be a benefit for Global Grassroots' programs with a suggested donation of \$25. This exhibition coincides with Tents of Hope on the National Mall November 7-9, 2008: [www.tentsofhope.org](http://www.tentsofhope.org). Please click the link to find out more about this international convening of Darfur activists.

## IN THE PROJECT SPACE:

*Pastime*, a photography exhibit of recent works by Ken Ashton, Jason Falchook, Michael Itkoff, Kate MacDonnell, Carlos Charlie Perez, Christopher Sims, and Noelle K. Tan.

*Pastime* unites imagery of leisure, amusement, and ritual depicted by contemporary American photographers in a variety of environments.

**Noelle K. Tan's** ethereal, saturated black photograph of a playground at night from the "untitled series" lends mystery and contrast to **Jason Falchook's** rich, color- and detail-saturated image of a broken bleacher in front of a textured, dilapidated structure. Editor for the New York based *Daylight Magazine*, **Michael Itkoff** shares two images from his new series on American demolition derbies titled "wrecked." An excerpt from **Christopher Sims'** exhibition "'Home Fronts: The Pretend Villages of Talatha and Braggistan" brings a captivating photograph of simulated Iraqi and Afghan villages on the training grounds of U.S. Army bases in North Carolina and Louisiana. Cooper Union graduate and Florida native **Carlos Charlie Perez** presents "September was it", a sharp, seductive large-scale work juxtaposing leisure and our nation's end of innocence. **Ken Ashton** contributes new work from Milan and **Kate MacDonnell** shares new work from the East Coast.

*Pastime* and *DARFUR/DARFUR* will be on view during Washington's first FOTOWEEKDC Nov. 15-22, 2008.

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**Civilian Art Projects** is committed to strengthening community and culture through the voice and vision of the artist, in a commercial gallery setting. Civilian produces and supports artist directed projects through exhibitions, books and publications, video and film, one-night events and happenings, and larger-scale projects with an international reach. The gallery is located in the Penn Quarter neighborhood of Washington, DC near many major museums, galleries, and national treasures.

**Exhibition Hours:** Wed-Saturday 12-6pm and by appointment

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