

International Art Project: “What Children Believe”
little ART e.V.



Project Description

What is most important for children and adolescents? What kind of wishes and dreams do they have? Do they believe in God or in various deities? Or do they follow a teaching or adhere to certain tenets? Or do love and friendship have the greatest power and significance? Does the experience of love and friendship give them the strongest sense of meaning and fulfilment? Beliefs have an influence on politics, science and culture as well as on our attitudes and behaviour. The future belongs to the children, and their beliefs will shape tomorrow's world in essential ways. Therefore little ART poses the question:

WHAT DO CHILDREN BELIEVE IN?

With this theme in mind our Munich organisation is launching an **International Art Project** – it invites children from all over the world in ages ranging from 4 to 16 to give artistic expression to their beliefs. What do they cherish the most? What moves their hearts in the deepest, innermost way?

The forms of expression may include photography, painting, video tape recordings and writing. Each child is asked to depict in an artistic way his own kind of personal beliefs. A jury of prominent members will make a selection of the children's artworks. The award-winning works will be presented in a book, in an online-gallery, and they will be shown in a touring exhibit.

GOALS AND ENDURING RESULTS

Through the art project **“What do children believe in?”** little ART desires to initiate a manifold and varied network. Art connects people and promotes a dialogue going beyond cultural, social and national boundaries. Through creative expression children and adolescents confront the issues of what is foreign and unfamiliar. In this way they develop their own individual understanding of worldwide diversity.

The art project **“What do children believe in?”** desires to motivate each child to explore the world around him in terms of this art topic. Furthermore, the project wishes to develop each child's artistic potential and expressive skills. Another goal of the project is to find out what kinds of value systems children of different age groups and cultural backgrounds experience. Do children believe in the role-models that their parents represent? To what extent do schools, institutions and society influence young people? Are children able to form their own opinions? How strong is the influence of modern media and new technologies of our globalized society? We expect that online-contacts will establish widespread international connections among young participants in the art project. Another purpose of the project is to arouse interest and curiosity toward other cultures and thus promote mutual understanding. Finally, the project should not only be informative but should also raise questions and stimulate further inquiry.

Little ART is looking forward to the responses and the artwork of children throughout the world. Little ART wishes to thank Antje Tesche-Mentzen, a noted German artist and sculptor, who initiated this project.