

My project in Guinea

On October 30, 2010 I left Quebec to go in Conakry, capital of Guinea in West Africa. A dream I had for so long. I always painted Africa and this was a wonderful opportunity for me to get my inspiration directly from the source. I really felt like going home.

Obviously I gave myself the mandate to proudly represent Painting a New World on Guinean soil. I was also going to give painting workshops at a school in Conakry and was hoping to meet with professional artists and young emerging artists with whom I could share this wonderful project.

My adventure was planned for 10 weeks but the political situation began to deteriorate and I had to take the decision to return to Quebec after only 3 weeks. Although sad to come back so soon it was still very nourishing for my soul.

In short, the first week was an adjustment. I lived in the headmaster's family where I had to give workshops. The customs are quite different from ours, it was pretty special to live. The 2nd week, I met a wonderful group of painters and 3 young emerging artists with whom I established a lasting relationship. I began to provide them with art supplies while explaining the purpose of the organization Painting a New World. They were all very happy to see that there are artists who like to share with other artists and it was very motivating for them. The 3rd week was less interesting. Political demonstrations began to take such an extent that I had to leave Guinea, leaving behind me all those beautiful unfinished projects and my new friends that I couldn't see before I left.

However, good news, I have a friend who recently visited Guinea and was able to bring back a few paintings of young artists who had received art supplies. I can't wait to show you their artwork.

I intend to return to Guinea to complete the adventure and come back with beautiful pictures and beautiful paintings.

In the meantime I will continue to work in order to realize my dream which is PAINTING A NEW WORLD.

Jean-Claude Latour

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