

FRANCO COSTA'S MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE - *March 2004*

The last few years have been particularly kind to me as I have been extremely fortunate in having my art recognized globally, none more so than in the yachting and boating world. I have been appointed the official artist for many sailing events including the 150th America's Cup Jubilee in Cowes, the Volvo Ocean Race 2001-2002, the Daimler Chrysler North Atlantic Challenge Race 2003 and the J24 Worlds to name but a few. I have been delighted that I should have found such recognition whilst in my 70th year.

The recent conflicts in countries like Iraq have left me horrified at the distress and meaningless suffering, specifically for children, in our "civilized" modern world. I have long considered how I may be able to use my privileged position, as a successful artist, to reduce the underlying causes of war and the damage inflicted upon the underprivileged young.

I have been truly moved by the passion of the youth in my own country, Italy, and the youth of other nations, who are at a loss to understand the motivation of others for the death and destruction of the innocent.

A common theme from those I have spoken to, is that education, in its widest sense, and an appreciation of one another's perceptions, ideals and cultures, is a clear path towards mutual understanding and tolerance.

I have noticed over many years how art manages, with ease, to bridge cultural divides and brings enormous pleasure to artist and clients alike. A common denominator of appreciation. I have been extremely fortunate in having my art exhibited throughout the world in every continent. I am now launching a scheme to try and give something back to our troubled world and hope that, through art, a seed may be planted to help create a better world for our children, by our children.

Exhibitions 2003

Lillestrom, Bergen, Skallum, Heltman Marine (Norway)
Thessaloniki (05/06)
Newport., Rhode Island (14/06)
Louisiana, Orbico, Humblebaek (Denmark) (19/06)
Kiel (20/06) Munich (11/08)
London: Presentation with Sotheby and Hellenic College

Exhibitions 2004

Stockholm (26/06)
Hamburg Lillestrom, Oslo (March)
Monte Carlo
Porto Cervo
Dusseldorf
Frankfurt

Exhibitions 2005

United Arab Emirates
Iraq
Bergen
Rome

I intend to dedicate a substantial part of this exhibition space to art created by children of these nations to be sold at the exhibitions and via the internet for the sole benefit of less fortunate children. The aim being to share a common message of peace and mutual understanding. The more fortunate offering a helping hand to the less fortunate. Paintings by children for children.

Franco Costa