Beautiful Truth
How Health Research Shapes Our World

Photography by
Theo Chalmers
Beautiful Truth
How Health Research Shapes Our World

A Photographic Portrait Campaign produced in collaboration with public figures, opinion leaders, leading researchers, and those who have benefited from research for health.

Each portrait tells an enigmatic story about how research has directly benefited our health, wealth and happiness.

You are invited:
The Research Promotion and Development Team of the Pan American Health Organization cordially invites you to take part in exciting and innovative photographic portraits illustrating health research success stories found around the world. Fine Art photographer Theo Chalmers is collaborating with the Pan American Health Organization to produce this striking exhibition of images. The work invites the viewer to explore the stories behind some of the most important and influential changes in health, development and innovation the world has seen.

What we’re trying to achieve:
We are creating innovative photographic portraits which will tell stories that people everywhere will enjoy and connect with, and will encourage policy makers to invest in research for health. This exhibit will unearth the seldom told stories of research for health. It will also encourage health practitioners to make the most of the existing knowledge and health research, and implement scientific research findings.

Why we need you:
The future of this project is dependent upon the participation of striking, influential people like you. We need you to help us tell these stories, and encourage people to listen and act. With your help, we can capture the attention of people everywhere, and give our stories the consideration they deserve. We would be grateful to have your involvement in what will be a truly creative and contemporary portrait campaign.

With thanks,

Kristina Webster MacKenzie
Pan American Health Organization
Tel: 202-974-3655
e-mail: rp@paho.org
Theo Chalmers
Fine Art Photographer

About the Artist:

Theo Chalmers is a British photographer with a diverse and bold portfolio. His fine art images range from highly structured and unorthodox portraits to enigmatic still life work, where he explores topical narratives in serial and challenging ways.

Themes of beauty and the human form, particularly movement and precision, are important in his images and can be seen frequently in his work.

Chalmers has a reputation for a respectful approach to sensitive subjects and an honest daring eye in his personal and project work.

Online portfolio - www.theochalmers.com

Portraiture examples:

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand
- Actress Kim Cattrall
- Baroness P D James
- Sir Ben Kingsley
My Ashmolean, My Museum is a photographic campaign produced in collaboration with high profile individuals and members of the local community. Each portrait tells a unique story about the Ashmolean’s renowned collections of art and archaeology and the sitter’s relationship with the object.

The fine-art photographer, Theo Chalmers has produced the eye-catching series of portrait photographs to convey the spirit and excitement of the new Museum building, in the lead up to the grand opening in November 2009.

Our thanks go to all the individuals who have generously given their time and support to this campaign.

Ailena Koudoua with the Mosque Lamp, c. 1300s - My name means light

Ailena’s name comes from the Greek word light. She sits next to a mosque lamp, which is inscribed on the side with the name Muhammad ibn Qala’un, the Mamluk Sultan of Egypt. Rows of similar lamps would have been used to decorate mosques and tombs of the sultans and their senior officials. The techniques of enameling and gilding on glass developed in Syria in the 12th century, reaching Egypt in the 13th and 14th centuries. Thus, the traditional form of a hanging lamp was transformed from a plain transparent vessel into an object of great splendor and beauty.
In late August 2006, Lord Sainsbury, (the then Science and Innovation Minister), announced that a £26.4m investment would fund the construction of the new Research Complex at Harwell. The investment was part of the commitment of the Government at the time to making the UK the most attractive location in the world for scientific research.

Fine Art Photographer Theo Chalmers was invited by Director Simon Phillips and his team at The Research Complex at Harwell (RCAh) to be their Artist in Residence throughout May and June of 2010 in the lead up to the official opening of the new building. During his post at RCAh Chalmers was introduced to the core work carried out by the scientists at the Complex. As a culmination to this placement, Chalmers was invited to creatively reflect on his findings and to produce a large scale, site-specific work of art for the buildings reception room.

The image exhibited at RCAh is Chalmers’ interpretation of the ethos of the facility. His work champions the message that ‘Scientists from different disciplines work at RCAh together to make new discoveries’.

Biologists, chemists and physicists (each represented in turn by the purple, green and blue linked arms) contribute, record and safeguard knowledge of unfolding phenomena with precision and accuracy. The duplication within the image represents the reinforcement of understanding created by many hands and many minds working in concert. The central light of the image represents the not yet discovered, while the human face reflects enlightenment. Light, the electromagnetic spectrum and particularly X-ray (represented in the top left and top right of the image) are the other key areas of influence for Chalmers in this piece.

The work explores not only ‘the very tiny’ but the collaborative effort needed to understand a molecule’s underlying properties. The words of Galileo Galilei “Measure what is measurable and make measurable what is not so,” can also be seen running in duplicate in the image. The original artwork, exhibited permanently in the communal meeting area at RCAh, measures 3m by 1.4m.
Paul’s Place is a voluntary charity for physically and cognitively impaired adults, aged 18-59. Members, volunteers and staff at Paul’s Place modeled for an international portrait campaign photographed by Fine Art Photographer Theo Chalmers. These images were created in order to raise funds whilst challenging and exploring the meaning of disability.
For more information about Theo Chalmers and to see more of his work please visit:

www.theochalmers.com

Theo Chalmers
Fine Art Photographer

For more information about the Research for Health Photography Exhibit, please contact

Kristina MacKenzie at: rp@paho.org

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

Beautiful Truth
How Health Research Shapes Our World