Lélia Wanick Salgado

Lélia Wanick Salgado was born in Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil, and, early in her life, settled in Paris, France. Married, she is the mother of two sons, and grandmother of a young man and a little girl.

In Vitória, besides secondary education, Lélia studied piano at the Conservatory, and French language at Alliance Française.
In Paris, LWS studied Architecture at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts, and Urban Planning at the University of Paris VIII where she obtained a master’s degree.

Her interest in photography began in the early 70's and grew with the years. In 1983 she changed her field, working first with the Photo Revue, and then, in 1984, with Longue Vue, both French photography magazines. In 1985-1986 LWS was the Director of the Magnum Gallery, in Paris, where she organized about twenty photo exhibitions.

In 1987, LWS created her own structure for the organization of photography exhibitions, as well as for the conception and design of photographic books, activities which she continues to exercise. She has produced a series of books dedicated to the photography of Sebastião Salgado, Autres Amériques (1986) was the first of these. The accompanying exhibition Autres Amériques, curated by LWS for the Month of Photography in Paris in 1986, won the “Prix du Public” award, in the same year.
LWS was the Art Director of “Les Rencontres Internationales de la Photo” of the Reunion Island for the the years 1990, 1991 and 1992.

LWS was the recipient of awards for several of the books, along the time.

LWS designed and curated the numerous exhibitions, accompanying the books. She organizes the touring of the shows, more than 300 to this day, in major museums and galleries throughout the world.

In 1994, Lélia Wanick Salgado and Sebastião Salgado founded Amazonas images, a press agency in Paris, dedicated exclusively to Salgado’s work. LWS was its Director. Today this structure is their studio.

Since the 1990’s, Lélia and Sebastião have decided to go beyond recording the condition of the planet and become directly engaged themselves by reforesting a family property in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais with the original species of the Atlantic forest. Like so many others farms in the region, the land had been cleared of trees to accommodate cattle but, decades later, was eroded and unproductive. Through the Instituto Terra, as the project is named, over the past 20 years, 2.5 million saplings of native species have been planted and 800 hectares restored. And in the process, not only have streams been revived, but long-absent insects, birds and animals have also returned.
The Instituto is dedicated to a mission of reforestation, conservation and environmental education.
LWS received several honors for her environmental activities accomplished through *Instituto Terra*, such as:

During the *Rio + 20 Conference*, in 2012, LWS was awarded with the prize for environment from *instituto*, UNESCO Brasil and Rio de Janeiro Municipality, Brazil. This same year, she received the Prize « *Personalidade Ambiental* (Environmental Personality), from the World Wildlife Fund, Brazil.

In 2014, LWS has been made a member of *Amigos do Meio Ambiente* (Friends of the Environment) during the Fifth World Environment Forum in Foz de Iguaçu, Parana, Brazil.

In 2016, on the occasion of the Day of Latin America and Caribean, the French Senate awarded LWS with the *Medal of the Senate*, for her eminent contribution to the relations between Brazil and France.

In 2018, the *Institut du Monde Lusophone* in Paris gave LWS the Prize of the Lusophone 2018, for contribution to sustainable development and environmental preservation through the actions of *Instituto Terra*. 