

## David Wright

UGANDA: A RIVER BLUE

February 5–March 31, 2010



**AnastasiaPhoto** is pleased to present the first solo exhibition by photographer David Wright: A photographic collaboration with the NGO, A River Blue. These luminous works were made over two months in northern Uganda where A River Blue is located. The photos depict a school that is funded by the charitable organization A River Blue in a formerly internally displaced persons camp, as well as images of the citizens and landscapes of the surrounding village of Alebtong.

**David Wright** (b.1983) studied photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he moved to Maine to continue his photographic studies. He has exhibited widely throughout New York and Maine, and currently divides his time between both states.

In January and February 2009 David spent 2 months in northern Uganda photographing for A River Blue, a non-profit arts empowerment project for the children of formerly internally displaced persons camps.

David's series "Alebtong, Uganda, 2009" was recently selected as 1 of 3 winners in the prestigious 2009 Conscientious Portfolio Competition. An interview with David can be read here: [http://www.jmcolberg.com/weblog/2009/10/a\\_conversation\\_with\\_cpc\\_2009\\_winner\\_david\\_wright.html](http://www.jmcolberg.com/weblog/2009/10/a_conversation_with_cpc_2009_winner_david_wright.html).

**A River Blue** started as an arts empowerment project for the children of Alebtong, Aloi and Amoro IDP (internally-displaced persons) camps in northern Uganda, funded and overseen by Barefoot Workshops, a non-profit, media-based educational and development organization.

A year later, the local government in Aloi sub-country donated a building, which now serves as a rehabilitation and vocational training center for the most vulnerable youth in the surrounding community. A River Blue gives these youth the opportunity to receive vocational training in a variety of subjects. The program also supports the students through psychosocial counseling that includes group sessions, one-on-one sessions and by expressing themselves through the arts. Counseling allows students to begin to heal themselves, which gives them the chance to reach out to the community and offer the same support.

Barefoot's relationship with the youth of northern Uganda began in August, 2006 when singer/songwriter Joseph Arthur was invited to help launch the project with a music, dance, drama and art festival bringing together one hundred young people living in the camps to nurture and celebrate their creative vision and passion for the arts. During the festival, Joseph and the children recorded his song A River Blue from which the project takes its name

AnastasiaPhoto specializes in Photojournalism and Documentary photography and couples each exhibition with a related Philanthropic Organization. For further questions or information please contact Ryan Steadman at [ryan@anastasia-photo.com](mailto:ryan@anastasia-photo.com) The gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11-7. 212-677-9725