

A Child from Everywhere

V&A Museum of Childhood

7 May – 30 August 2010



There are 192 countries in the world: Photographer and writer Caroline Irby set out to find, photograph and interview one child from each of these countries now living in the UK. Through schools, city councils, refugee groups, doctors' surgeries, embassies and personal leads, Irby managed to locate children from 185 of these different countries. A Child from Everywhere tells each child's story through a series of photographs and interviews.

From 7 May, a selection of these visually and emotionally engaging photographs – reproduced on a large scale - will be on display at the V&A Museum of Childhood. Sitting alongside the images will be a series of short films the artist made for Channel 4, which feature a number of interviews with the children.

Irby's search took her from the Orkney Isles to the Isle of Wight, and from Belfast to Cornwall. She experienced the hospitality—the meatballs, the couscous, the chocolate in unfamiliar wrapping—of families from every continent, and through all of these encounters was given both a glimpse into the countries from which the children had come, and a 185-layered image of her own country.

The photographs of the children on display will include Juan from Chile, now living in the Orkney Islands, where his father is head of production on a salmon farm; Aura, adopted from a Guatemalan orphanage and now living in Oxford; and Emmanuel, a Sudanese refugee living in Bolton who fled his country via Uganda.

Caroline Irby is an award-winning British documentary and portrait photographer and writer, and has worked extensively in Africa and Asia. She has a reputation for telling her stories through the voice of children. Irby has previously written for The Guardian, The Independent and The Times and her photography has been published widely.

A book of the same name will be published by Black Dog Publishing in May priced £14.95. Proceeds from the book go to Oxfam.

Notes to Editors

Entry to the exhibition and the Museum is FREE.

The V&A Museum of Childhood aims to encourage everyone to explore the themes of childhood past and present and develop an appreciation of creative design through its inspirational collections and programmes. The Museum is part of the V&A, housing the national childhood collection. The Galleries are designed to show the collections in a way which is accessible to adults and children of all ages.

V&A Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 9PA. Admission free. Nearest tube: Bethnal Green. Open daily: 10.00 – 17.45, last admission 17.30. Switchboard: 020 8983 5200
www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

The images shown are Emilia from Vietnam, Juan from Chile and Nadine from Egypt.

For further **PRESS** information on the exhibition please contact Rebecca Ward on 020 7613 3306 or email press@rebeccaward.co.uk.