

Sale Begins of First 100 Special Edition Signed Books

100% of Profit to be Allocated to Children's Related Charities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarasota, Florida - March 1, 2006 - Portraits of Our World today announced that they will now start accepting orders for their bound collection of fine art, "Portraits of Our World". The large format bound collection will consist of over fifty fine art portraits of men, women and children taken during the artists' numerous stops on their one year journey around the world.

"Originally the book was meant to be a commercial undertaking. But soon after we began photographing in the country-side of Zambia and Zimbabwe we knew that we had to change our thinking," said Deborah Grooms, who originally envisioned the one year global journey to begin with. "We already have so much in our lives and many of the children that we had the privilege of spending a little time with do not."

With the mission of the helping to change the lives of children around the world in mind, it quickly became apparent to Carlton and Deborah that they needed to seriously consider self-publishing in hopes of maintaining as much of the revenue for charitable purposes as possible. "It's not that we do not desire to work with a publisher or distributor, on the contrary we do," said Carlton Grooms in regards to why they are initially moving forward alone. "We are actively seeking partnerships but we don't feel we can wait and leave the future of this project up in the air. We are willing to put everything we have behind this effort in order to make it go forward now."

The announced date of actual delivery of the books is the Christmas shopping season in 2007, before December to be exact. This is a reflection of the fact that the artists are still traveling on the last portion of their journey. Right now they are in Australia and New Zealand. The process of publication will begin in August of 2006 with the culmination of the publishing and distribution occurring in the summer of 2007. "We want to get this collection out and start seeing funds for all the charitable undertakings we have in mind yesterday," said Deborah. "That is just not realistic. We will only put our name on a collection that can be truly considered up to our standards of fine art photography."

Pre-purchase of the fine art collection, at \$99.95 each, requires full payment up front. "We have already sold the first 20 copies with full payment already. We couldn't even get organized and make this announcement before the first few special edition books were gone," said Carlton. The first 100 copies of the collection will be signed and placed in special silk boxes which in turn will be sourced from a rural village in Thailand. "We want our various vendors who will help in the production to be from regions of the world that need the trade and visibility as well." Carlton continued, "This is a hopeful start but we need to sell thousands of copies in order to make a real difference in the

lives of the children in many of the nations in which we have visited. We are actively discussing larger corporate sales where we have made the offer to customize the collection. We think this is a wonderful way for a corporation to signal to their business partners where they stand on important issues such as ours.”

One of the most unique aspects of this fine art collection is the inclusion of images from Alexa and Connor Grooms ages 12 and 11 respectively. Trained by their parents, some of their work is already world class and marked for inclusion in this book. “My parents expect a lot from us when we have the camera but won’t tell us what to do when we are actually in the field photographing,” said Alexa Grooms. Trying to balance a 400mm lens and heavy camera while capturing a great image is not always easy for Connor Grooms who weighs only 50 lbs himself. “I think it is great that some of my work will help many of the children that I had a chance to meet this year,” concludes Connor.

“Portraits of Our World,” will soon be available for sale at www.portraitsofourworld.com. “Between the team of volunteers we have begun to enlist to help sell this collection and the website we have lofty dreams,” said Deborah.

“Portraits of Our World” is a large format bound collection of fine art portraiture created by Deborah and Carlton Grooms with help from Alexa and Connor Grooms. It is a book of portraiture created from a one year journey around the world. Subjects include children in a township of South Africa, a poverty stricken woman in Vietnam and the wise and weathered face of a man in Egypt. After being moved by what they saw through their lenses they decided to allocate all the profits from the sale of the work to charitable causes in support of children around the world. The collection is scheduled for release prior to the 2007 Christmas shopping season and is currently for sale on-line at www.portraitsofourworld.com.

Supporting images available at: http://www.portraitsofourworld.com/press_releases/images.html

Additional artists’ sites: <http://www.groomsglobetrek.com>
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