

Baptist Coelho  
**Paper Airplane Project, 2008-17**

---

*To date the project has been realised with 1,140 children from 56 schools in 19 cities in 13 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Norway, Poland, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom)*

**- Note**



The **Paper Airplane Project** is a workshop that engages children to explore their creativity, collaborate and provide an introduction to process-based art. Baptist uses the construction of paper airplanes as a communication tool for children to express themselves, while visualizing their dreams and aspirations. In the process, the artist also encourages the children to delve into new ideas about creative play.

The **Paper Airplane Project** was developed from Coelho's installation entitled, **re(wind)**, 2006\*. This site-specific work consisted of paper airplanes, which appear to fly into a room through an open window. The project encouraged children to construct paper airplanes, incorporate ideas about adulthood and create art works, which would represent their dreams; using their paper airplanes and selected objects. This experience culminated in a final performance where children flew their paper airplanes and then attached them on a wall, called the 'Wall of Dreams'.

Through the research created from **re(wind)**, Baptist recognized that the experience of making paper airplanes represented a universal symbol of children's need to play, learn and experience the environment that surrounds them. Expanding on this experience, the artist began collaborating with diverse schools throughout India and around the world. This process began the mapping of the similarities and differences which children from various cultures experienced.

The experience of constructing deceptively simple paper airplanes became the medium for children to creatively express themselves and visualize their own abilities. Through the practice of construction, installation and performance, the children were introduced to the process of creating and developing an artwork. During the course of these workshops, Baptist also explored his role as artist and gave the children an understanding about collaborative projects and the function of art in a community.

The **Paper Airplane Project** became a voice for children's dreams and the benchmark for ongoing collaborations with children around the world. [http://www.baptistcoelho.com/artwork.php?category\\_id=57](http://www.baptistcoelho.com/artwork.php?category_id=57)

**- Workshops realised:**

**2016**

- Interactive workshop with **10 children of Senses, 07 children of Al Noor - Training Centre for Children with Special Needs, & 15 children of Manzil Centre**, Facilitator: Start, Dubai-UAE
- Interactive workshop with **17 children of Sajaya Young Ladies of Sharjah**, Facilitator: Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah-UAE

**2015**

- Interactive workshop with **17 children of SD Tumbuh 2**, Facilitator: Ark Galerie, Yogyakarta-Indonesia

## 2014

- Interactive workshop with **60 children of Tamanna School for Specially Abled Children & Jindal Vidya Mandir**, Vijayanagar-India, Facilitator: JSW Foundation, Bombay-India
- Interactive workshop with **09 children of Møllergata Skole**, Facilitator: Fotogalleriet, Oslo-Norway
- Interactive workshop with **14 children of Lycée Français International**, Antwerp-Belgium, Facilitator: Thalie Art Project, Brussels-Belgium
- Interactive workshop with **12 children of The Children's Art Centre**, Cape Town-South Africa

## 2013

- Interactive workshop with **05 children of Golconda High School, 05 children of Govt. Girls High School, 15 children of Kalpa School, 25 children of Nasr Girls School, 12 children of Sri Aurobindo International School & 21 children of Vivekananda Public School**. Facilitators: Hyderabad Literary Festival, Goethe-Zentrum & Kalakriti Art Gallery, Hyderabad-India
- Interactive workshop with **18 children of Janakalayan HSS, 20 children of Sarsoti HS, 08 children of Dhangadhi HSS, 18 children of Sarsoti LSS, 15 children of Janta Rastiya HSS, 18 children of Tribhwan HSS & 14 children of Rastiya HS**. Facilitators: Vodafone, Reach Out To Asia, Mercy Corps & Nepal Red Cross Society, Kailali-Nepal

## 2012

- Interactive workshop with **27 children of Paisii Hilendarski School**. Facilitator: Art Association Today, Plovdiv-Bulgaria
- Interactive workshop with **25 children of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**. Facilitator: The Delfina Foundation, London-UK

## 2011

- Interactive workshop with **28 children of Islamia Public School, 31 children of Government Middle School, 40 children of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya & 20 children of Old Town**. Facilitator: Ladakh Arts and Media Organisation (LAMO), Leh-India
- Interactive workshop with **20 children of Warsaw**. Facilitator: Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw-Poland
- Interactive workshop with **27 children of École Mondiale World School**, Bombay-India
- Interactive workshop with **14 children of Families for Children, 24 children of Vivekalaya Matriculation School, 60 children of Mani Higher Secondary School, 51 children of Government Girls High School & 34 children of Sree Saraswathi Vidya Mandir World School**. Facilitator: Coimbatore Center for Contemporary Arts (CoCA), India

## 2010

- Interactive workshop with **10 children of G.H.P.S. School, 21 children of Shrandhanjali Integrated School at The Association of People with Disability, 22 children of Emmanuel Sugnana Jyothi High School, 20 children of Delhi Public School – North & 31 children of Mallya Aditi International School**. Coordinator: Lina Vincent Sunish, Bangalore-India
- Interactive workshop with **25 children of Yangsan Elementary School, 27 children of Mudeung Elementary School & 29 children of Ochi Elementary School**. Facilitator: Gwangju Biennale Foundation, South Korea
- Interactive workshop with **22 children of American School of Bombay**, India
- Interactive workshop with **23 children of Wat Boonsampan School**, Pattaya-Thailand

2009

- Interactive workshop with **09 children of Realschule Bruggen**, St. Gallen-Switzerland

2008

- Interactive workshop with **30 children of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL)**, Phey-India

- Interactive workshop with **05 children of Salaam Balak, 05 children of Meljol, 05 children of Doorstep School, 05 children of Aseema, 05 children of Yuvaunstoppable, 05 children of Mobile Creches & 05 children of Aangan Trust**. Facilitator: Mohile Parikh Center, Bombay-India

- Interactive workshop with **80 children of École Mondiale World School**, Bombay-India

- Press

'**Airplanes and Aspirations**', by Sangeetha Devi Dundoo, The Hindu, India (30 Jan, 2014)

[http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download\\_files/50\\_BCoelho\\_TheHindu\\_2014.pdf](http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download_files/50_BCoelho_TheHindu_2014.pdf)

'**Wings of Fire**' by Nithya Sivashankar, The Hindu, India (7 Mar, 2011)

[http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download\\_files/38\\_BCoelho\\_TheHindu\\_2011.pdf](http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download_files/38_BCoelho_TheHindu_2011.pdf)

'**Paper Airplane Project**', The Hindu, India (24 Feb, 2011)

[http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download\\_files/37\\_BCoelho\\_TheHindu\\_2011.pdf](http://www.baptistcoelho.com/download_files/37_BCoelho_TheHindu_2011.pdf)

- The **Paper Airplane Project** is developed from the installation **re(wind)**

\* **re(wind)**, 2006

Site-specific installation with paper airplanes, metal wire and adhesive tape

Installation dimensions: variable

[http://www.baptistcoelho.com/project\\_content.php?category\\_id=53&artwork\\_id=80](http://www.baptistcoelho.com/project_content.php?category_id=53&artwork_id=80)



In **re(wind)**, I explore the fundamental element of air while reflecting on my childhood memories of creating and flying paper airplanes. Paper airplanes are deceptively simple, hand-made objects; their fragile nature at variance with the complex technology of today's machines. This site-specific installation reflects on the basic act of folding paper and the magical moment of flight. These paper airplanes are suspended in air, yet appear to be caught between two worlds; one of the interior, present world and the other, an exterior world of the past. This installation also captures the essence of childhood and its impermanence.

While gathering my research for **re(wind)**, I recognized that this experience of making paper airplanes represented a universal symbol of a child's need to play, learn and experience the environment around him. Elaborating on this idea, I began collaborating with schools throughout India and around the world to develop

the **Paper Airplane Project**. This became a successful communication tool for children to express themselves and visualize their dreams and aspirations.

- August 2017