

Roberts' 'Humanitas: Images of India' exhibited at the UN

BY I.S. SALUJA



A group of judges and lawmakers with Ambassador Hardeep S Puri and Fredric Roberts at the photo exhibition

To the question what do these photographs reveal, Roberts said, "They reveal the rapport I establish with my subjects as well as their own sense of elegance and self possession."

"Half of this Rajasthani work was shot in one month, in 2003 and the other part of it was shot in Gujarat in 2006, during the period of Holi. It shows my love for the country and for the people of India. .. I find Indian culture beautiful. I am afraid it is vanishing. And I want to preserve it", Roberts said.

Fredric Roberts was being truthful. Every photograph said so much. The colors, the expression of eyes, the face, and the angularity of body seemed to suggest so much, express so much. And then there was a rich variety of activity captured by the talented photographer who was recently conferred "The Best Foreign Photographer for India" award by government of India. The award was presented to him by the Speaker of India's Parliament (Lok Sabha) Meera Kumar, in the presence of Tourism Minister of India, Subodh Kant Sahay.

Here are comments of a few viewers at the exhibition:- Judge Robert Gigante, Surrogate from Staten Island commented: "The impression is that it gives a better view of Indian culture. This exhibition brings the realism of India which one misses on television, newspapers and movies. It shows the diversity of India. It also explodes the myth that Indian society is male dominated." Judge Aliotta said, "You must see into the minds of the people portrayed. There are a lot of different personalities that have been portrayed. The portrayal is realistic and impressive".

Chris Fellon, curator of a New York museum said, "I am a fan of Fredric Roberts' work. He has exhibited his work in our museum three years ago. He is a great photographer".

Regina Dunlop from Brazilian Mission said, I am a friend of India and I love the work here. I have liked the images. It is a great work". Ambassador Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations said "These photographs are of excellent quality. They depict the reality of Indian life. The colors are symbolic and illustrative of life. I am impressed with the work of Fredric Roberts".

I asked Roberts how he felt at being honored with the award and he said, "It's always wonderful to receive awards, but I have just been honored with one that has deep significance for me. Last week at a ceremony in Delhi, the Government of India presented me with its "Best Foreign Photographer for India" award.

"Having photographed in India for many years, the people and places of this beautiful country have a special place in my heart. Moreover, I have recently established The Fredric Roberts Photography Workshop for local Indian students in conjunction with Sanjhi, an Udaipur based NGO focused on environmental issues. So it's extremely gratifying to have the Government of India recognize my work with this high honor.

"In addition, I'm delighted that my photography has been selected for a special exhibition at the United Nations to celebrate India's presidency of the UN Security Council."

Fredric Roberts is a photographer who resides in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles. He is represented by the Sundaram Tagore Galleries in Beverly Hills and New York, Bonni Benrubi Gallery in New York, and the Robert Klein Gallery in Boston. He is also represented by the Andrew Smith Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Stephen Cohen Gallery in Los Angeles and Bougainvillea Gallery in Udaipur, India. His photographs are in the collections of Stanford and Yale Universities, Pitzer College, and the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego.

In January 2011, he established The Fredric Roberts Photography Workshop for Indian students, in cooperation with Sanjhi, an Udaipur based NGO which promulgates environmental practices throughout India.

Roberts is a graduate of Yale University and The Hill School and is an active member of the business and cultural communities in Los Angeles. He is an Emeritus Member of the Board of Directors and a member of the Executive and Finance Committees of the Los Angeles Music Center. He is also Chairman Emeritus of the Music Center's Fraternity of Friends and Founding Chairman of the Spotlight Awards Scholarship Program. He has been a frequent lecturer for the John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management at the University of California Los Angeles and the Young Presidents' Organization. He has written several articles on corporate finance for Chief Executive Magazine. He is the former Cellar Master of the Los Angeles chapter of the Commanderie de Bordeaux and past president of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

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Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, President, United Nations Security Council introduces the award winning photographer Fredric Roberts whose photo exhibition "Humanitas - Images of India" was inaugurated at the United Nations on August 8, 2011

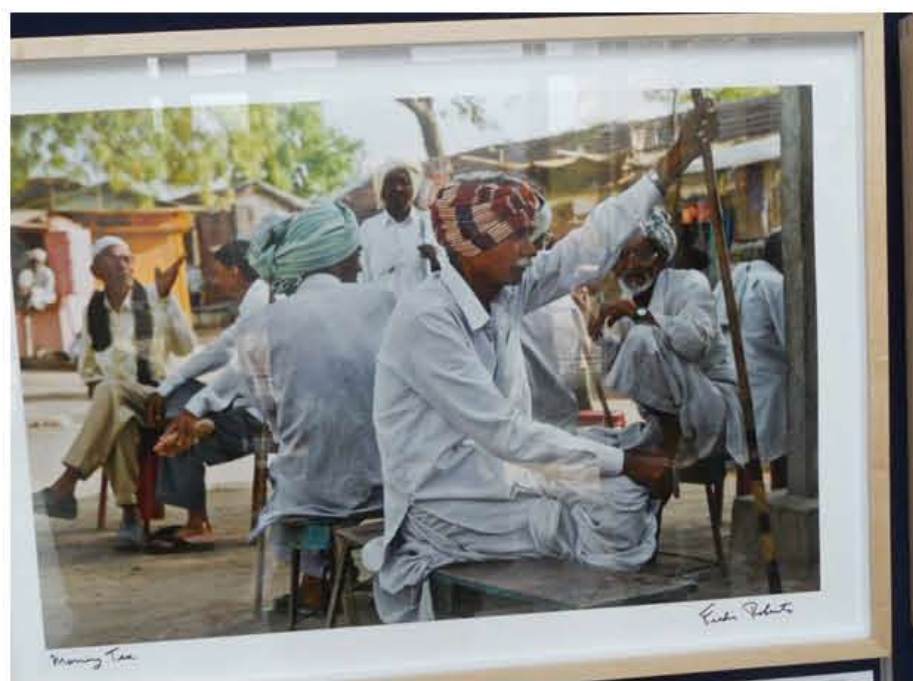


Admiring photographs at the exhibition: (L to R): Neal Batra, Ranju Batra, Ambassador Hardeep S Puri, Mrs. Lakshmi Puri, Senator John Sampson, Ravi Batra



Fredric Roberts receives "The Best Foreign Photographer for India" award from Lok Sabha (Parliament) Speaker Meera Kumar. Tourism Minister of India Subodh Kant Sahay looks on.

Some of the photos at the exhibition



Photos/ Mohammed Jaffer/ SnapsIndia