



Isabel Corthier

# She captures people in all their moods

Talking about her journey, she says, "I love meeting people. I was an architect. I thought the profession would give me what I need in life. But I was dealing with bricks and drawing and not so much with people. So I did a course on photography. I found my true calling."

Her photoseries "Encounters in South Sudan" received the award for "best body of work" on the IPMGA photofestival 2014 in Kolkata. She says, "In my documentary I want to tell the story of the Dinka population and their culture. Since in the general news of the world we only hear about a country; a country in war. You don't think about the people. Since a country is made up of population which is made up of individuals. So it is important to show these people who are full of love, compassion, hopes and fears. Sometimes, the portrait is not of happy person, as these people have been living in a war situation for the last 40 years. You can see the fear in their eyes."





When asked which country left her big impact, she says, "I recently visited Myanmar (Burma) . The country has left an enormous impression on me. The friendliness of the people is incredible. The beauty of the people is incredible."

She thinks almost every person has become a photographer. Images are becoming more and more important.

Her word of advice, "Follow your heart and have respect for the people you are photographing." ■

■ **Abhijit Ganguly**

For Isabel Corthier, photography is an interpretation of reality. A freelance photographer, Isabel Corthier works in Belgium and abroad on documentary photography . Her work has featured on the covers of Caritas International, Doctors without Borders, North-South, Klasse and Content magazine.

Dinka woman	The brickfactory	After the first rain	Spears
			
<p>Dinka men and women get scarifications at a young age. It shows the tribe you belong to. A man will remain a boy without scarifications. For a woman it is rather decoration. The specialist uses the same spear to cut all boys heads. They are not allowed to make any noise during this initiation. Nowadays it happens less because it is very painful, and dangerous. Before people were proud to show their tribe, now it can limit your acces to other parts of the country and the rest of the world.</p>	<p>A young man is working in a brickfactory , you rather call it a brick fabrication place, because it is nothing more than an open space with some piled up mountains of bricks. It is located next to the river. There are about 20 young men. There is almost no job opportunities in the village. Due to 40 years of war there are almost no industry in the country. Schools are rare. Warrap state is remaining one of the poorest in the country. 64%of the people live below poverty line.</p>	<p>Everybody is happy with the first rain. Crops will start to grow again, so there will be food again! Although there will be food again, the hunger gap starts now because all the food reserves they had from last season are finished now. Many children are malnourished. Rainy season is also the season for snakes and scorpions.</p>	<p>Dinka men mostly carry spears or sticks when they go around. It is a bit frightening the first time I was walking around on my own meeting a bunch of men with spears!! They need it to protect themselves from wild animals, but also from tribal attacks definitely when they are grazing their cattle.  A spear can also be usfull to carry a living chicken fresh from the market!</p>