

MEDIA KIT

Giants of This World

by Vidheha Ranjan



A photo exhibition at Calvert Library, Twin Beaches
images taken between the ages of 8 to 10

www.spinybabbler.org/vidheha

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PRESS RELEASE

Giants of This World

Photo exhibition by Vidheha Ranjan at Calvert Library, Twin Beaches, Maryland, USA

“Vidheha is the youngest person in Nepalese art history to present a full exhibition,” wrote *Ratopati* in 2016 when 3-year-old Vidheha Ranjan presented *Early Creations*, an exhibition and book containing more than 80 artwork and photos at The Nepal Art Council. Now in the United States, she presents *Giants of This World*, a photo exhibition of whales taken on Cape Cod, and elephants in the Terai plains of Nepal at Calvert Library, Twin Beaches.

Nicole Hurley, the art coordinator, writes: "We are thrilled to have the stunning photographs of Vidheha Ranjan on display at Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch this summer. Vidheha's *Giants of This World* containing elephant and whale photographs, will bring a sense of joy and wonder. The storytelling from her images connect well to the gallery space in the stacks of our library. It is remarkable to have a talented youth photographer as a member of our community."

Now 11, Vidheha presented “I Like My Life” at the Patan Museum and Nepal Tourism Board as an art exhibition and book at the age of 5. Andrea Petrini, director of institutional giving and government affairs at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum commented, “DELIGHTFUL book by Vidheha Ranjan. A beautiful and insightful collection of poignant observations of her country, art and artists, animals, science, music, and the humanity that surrounds her. What better way to share another culture with your own little ones – from one child to another with *I Like My Life*, packed with great stuff!”

“Songs for Elephants” a photo exhibition followed at the age of 8 at the Patan Museum and educational establishments across 20 districts. “It is challenging to find a person so young, so gifted. Vidheha has broken difficult boundaries,” wrote Kranti Pandey in *Samacharpatra’s Junkiri*. “Vidheha’s abilities amaze everyone. She is proficient in art as well as music,” *Kantipur, Kopila*, stated while profiling her.

Editor-in-chief of *The Rising Nepal*, Bhimsen Thapalia, calls her a “star” and has published many of the 34 articles she has written while Umisha of *Kin* magazine, UK, said, “...thank you for helping us to create our VSO *Kin* magazine. The illustrations that you created are beautiful and helped us tell the important story of women in Nepal. You are a very talented young artist!”

Vidheha’s writing, artwork, and music have appeared in exhibitions, documentaries, independent media, as well as publications of UN Women, German Embassy, Ecpat Luxembourg, UKAID, VSO International, and other organizations.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Giants of This World

by Vidheha Ranjan

I began taking photographs at the age of 2-and-a-half using a Nikon DW100 and then moved onto a Nikon P500 at 3, with some cell phone photography in between. The elephant photos are some of the first I took on my Canon 800D DSLR, consciously having to move between 18mm wide, 50mm normal, and 300mm telephoto lenses. I was 8.

I remember the days were really hot and humid in Nepal's Terai plains, and I spent most of my time trying to keep up with the two elephants, Eva and Lhamo, observing, waiting to capture moments. A man-eating tiger was attacking people in the area, it killed three women, people were very tense, and this added a strange, serious feeling to everything.

I'd wait for the elephants to move into the right place, for the light to hit their backs in a certain way. They ignored me completely sometimes, and sometimes they'd stop and look straight into me. Through the camera, I'd think, they know what I want.

The largest land animal to photograph, early morning (6 am) starts, patience, fear, a constant heavy weight around my neck and on my arms tiring-hurting, and how much I could notice if I paid attention.

By the time I was 9, though I had climbed up to 10,000 feet in the Himalayas, I'd never seen the ocean. On a whale watch trip that headed out from Cape Cod, I held my camera tightly, trying to stay steady as the Atlantic Ocean rocked the boat beneath me. The air was hot and the smell of the ocean strong. The captain's voice came through the wind – humpback whales were approaching. I had photographed the largest land animal, now I saw the breath of one of the largest sea animals rise into the air, catching sunlight, making beautiful rainbows against deep blue waters and clear skies.

Suddenly, loud screams surrounded me! Two whales launched themselves into the air, their massive bodies soaring, they hung in front of me forever (or was it milliseconds), humongous, powerful. Then, with a thunderous explosion, they smashed back into the ocean and salt water showered upon my face, drenching my hair. This experience changed me.

The whales hadn't cared if I was ready, they moved on their own time, and I had to match their rhythm. This is what I believe that I bring through my work: their spirits and mine, unconnected seemingly, yet finding a rhythm, to share with you.



4 May 2025

CRITICS COMMENT

(some of these quotes are in the press release)

Vidheha presented *Early Creations*, a solo exhibition of 80 artworks at the Nepal Art Council on her 3rd birthday. *I Like My Life* followed and she co-authored, using art, *15 Stories* and *With My Whole Heart*. She traveled across 13 districts of Nepal, climbed up to 10,000 feet, and performed music and readings at the Patan Museum, 20+ public and private schools, and the Nepal Tourism Board. Her artworks appeared in UN Women, German Embassy, GIZ, Ecpat Luxembourg, and UKAID publications and 35 of her articles are published.

Cover story headline on Vidheha, "An art expert."
– *Annapurna Post, Ankur*

"We are thrilled to have the stunning photographs of Vidheha Ranjan on display at Calvert Library Twin Beaches Branch this summer. Vidheha's *Giants of This World*, elephant and whale photographs, will bring a sense of joy and wonder upon viewing. It is remarkable to have a talented youth photographer as a member of our community."
– *Nicole Hurley, art coordinator, Calvert Library Twin Beaches*

"DELIGHTFUL book by Vidheha Ranjan. A beautiful and insightful collection of poignant observations of her country, art and artists, animals, science, music, and the humanity that surrounds her. What better way to share another culture with your own little ones – from one child to another with *I Like My Life*, packed with great stuff!
– *Andrea Petrini, director of institutional giving, Guggenheim Museum*

"I think the drawings by Vidheha in *15 Stories* are really beautiful."
– *Debs Tarr, editor, Kin, UK*

I must say, I am truly inspired by Bideha's extraordinary creativity and maturity. Her work – spanning photography, writing, music, and visual art – is not only technically impressive but also deeply moving and insightful. I believe her story and work will inspire many – students, educators, and art lovers alike. In my 28 years in public education, I've had the privilege of working with many exceptional students – but Bideha stands out in a remarkable way.
– *Mark Whidden, Principal, Windy Hill Middle School*

"Vidheha is the youngest person in Nepalese art history to present a full exhibition."
– *Ratopati*

"Vidheha's abilities amaze everyone. She is proficient in art as well as music."
– *Kantipur, Kopila*

"We recognized a young talent and saw a child developing, becoming curious, and presenting a different type of art. Vidheha surprised everyone as she celebrated her third birthday."
– *Laxmi Basnet, Muna*

"It is challenging to find a person so young, so gifted. Vidheha has broken difficult boundaries."
– *Kranti Pandey, Junkiri*

...thank you for helping us to create our VSO *Kin* magazine. It has just gone to print. The illustrations that you created are beautiful and helped us tell the important story of women in Nepal. You are a very talented young artist!
– *Umisha Bhatia, designer, Kin, UK*

"A window into the mind of a developing child, her imagination, her coordination, life events, and her creative ability...
– *Sasha Koirala, Fr!day, ECS*

"Vidheha's work surprises adults and shows how a learning atmosphere can be created for children." – *Nagarik*

"We always encourage young stars."
– *Bhimsen Thapaliya, Editor-in-Chief, The Rising Nepal*

"Wow, really shocking... achieved perfectly."
– *Micaela Cilloniz in her peer review of Vidheha's blurred-action photos, Photography Basics and Beyond, Michigan State University on Coursera*

This is absolutely incredible, I am amazed, it gave me the chills. Her writing of the journey obtaining the photos was extraordinary. We are all very proud of Vidheha's exhibit and its depth as well as the time and effort put in. This needs to be celebrated, it is quite an accomplishment.
– *Kevin Mosay, band director, Windy Hill Middle School*

I am so proud of you.
– *Charles-Norris Brown, artist, anthropologist, author (art books for children), art teacher to Vidheha*

Words escape me as I try to process such remarkable talent, creativity, and maturity. I especially loved the community work she did at Nepal Hospice. Having had two parents on hospice before they passed away, I know how comforting music can be to all: the patient, the family, and the health-care workers.
– *Anne Smith, English instructor, College of Southern Maryland*

RESUME: Vidheha Ranjan

www.spinybabblers.org/vidheha

EDUCATION

Photography

- “Principles of Photo Composition and Digital Image Post-Production”; Michigan State University through Coursera; a four-week course certified verifiably; 17 May 2022
- “Cameras, Exposure, and Photography”; Michigan State University through Coursera; a four-week course certified verifiably; 9 April 2022
- “Camera Control”; Michigan State University through Coursera; a four-week course certified verifiably; 15 May 2022
- “Photography Techniques: Light, Content, and Sharing”; a four-week course certified verifiably; 22 September 2022

The arts

- “Introduction to Classical Music”; Yale University; a nine-week study completed and certified verifiably; 11 July 2022
- “Modern Art and Ideas”; The Museum of Modern Art; a five-week study completed and certified verifiably; 23 August 2022
- “Philosophy of Science”; University of Pennsylvania; a four-week study completed and certified verifiably; 23 July 2022

Schooling

US President’s Gold Seal for Academic Excellence; 2024

- Grade 6; Windy Hill Middle School; Chesapeake Beach, Maryland; 2025
- Grade 5; Windy Hill Elementary; Chesapeake Beach, Maryland; 2024
- Grade 4; Etta J. Wilson Elementary; Pike Creek, Newark, Delaware; 2023
- Nursery to Grade 3; Spiny Babblers Evolution; Sanepa, Kathmandu, Nepal; 2015 to 2022

COMMUNITY WORK

- Patan Kumari is a child worshipped as a Living Goddess in the Kathmandu Valley. As a goddess, she cannot attend school or interact normally with other children. Vidheha shared time with her, tutored her, sharing English, computer skills, and games one-on-one from April 2019 until the Covid shutdown in 2022
- Music and conversations weekly at Nepal Hospice, June 2019 until Covid shutdown
- Performed and shared at multiple educational institutions, 2016 to 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Giants of This World*; photographs of elephants and whales; 24 pp; full color; Spiny Babblers; USA; 2025
- *15 Stories: Women and Girls of the Terai*; 32 artworks on the cover and inside pages; VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) and UKAID; 2021. “I think the drawings by Vidheha in *15 Stories* are really beautiful,” Debs Tarr, editor, *Kin*.
- *With My Whole Heart: Expanding the Horizons of Equality*; 11 artworks on the cover and inside pages; VSO (Volunteer Services Overseas) and UKAID; 2021.
- *Early Creations*; artwork completed by age 3; 80 pp; full color; Spiny Babblers; Nepal; 2016. “We recognized a young talent and saw a child developing, becoming curious, and presenting a different type of art. Vidheha surprised everyone as she celebrated her third birthday,” Laxmi Basnet, *Muna*
- *I Like My Life*; 80 pp; blogs and sentences; Spiny Babblers; Nepal; 2019. “DELIGHTFUL book by Vidheha Ranjan of Kathmandu, Nepal. A beautiful and insightful collection of poignant observations of her country, art and artists, animals, science, music, and the humanity that surrounds her. What better way to share another culture with your own little ones – from one child to another with *I Like My Life*, packed with great stuff!” *Andrea Petrini, artist*

Artwork

- “Why Nepali Women and Girls Fear Fathers and Husbands”; *Annapurna Express*; 2020.
- “Gender Based Violence During a Pandemic”; *People’s Review*; 2020.
- “Silence is Not a Solution”; *Republica*; Kathmandu; 25 December 2020.
- “Mother, How Can I Help?” *People’s Review*; 2020.
- “The Hard Choice”; *People’s Review*; 2020.
- “A Life Free of Fear”; *Annapurna Express*; 2020.
- 60 years of German Embassy in Nepal leaflet; art-based icons; 2018.
- UN Women, art enhancement for four leaflet series. 2017.
- Earthquake factsheet, front cover and inside artwork, Ecpat Luxembourg, 2017.

- A fight against trafficking of women and children in India, front cover and inside artwork, Mukti Project, 2017.
- Annual Report 2016, artwork, Ecpat Luxembourg, 2017.

Music score for documentaries

- Nepal Health Sector, Procurement of Medical Drugs and Supplies, 6 mins 23 seconds, NHSSP, Options UK, 2022.
- Introductory video, National Health Support Service Programme, 2 minutes, FCDO, 2022.
- Sath-Sath (Together) local governments and citizens work together to make best use of tax and other incomes, 3D animation video, 10 minutes, GIZ, 2021.
- "Vidheha Ranjan: An Autobiography"; multiple creative formats, 18 minutes, Spiny Babbler, 2021.
- Lives are Changing, Hindu Kush Himalayan Village of Khar, 6 minutes, Sabah Nepal and ICIMOD, 2020.
- Farmer Business School, 5 minutes, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, 2018.

Articles published 34+, sampling presented...

1. "The Underground Word of Luray Caves,"; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; 17 January 2025.
2. "Chesapeake Beach and Chicken Little"; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; January 2024.
3. "My Trip To Philadelphia"; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; November 2023.
4. "Of Pirates and Sailors"; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; 10 June 2023.
5. "At My Door"; poem; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; May 2023.
6. "Meeting 101-Year-Old Writer In New York"; *Friday; The Rising Nepal*; 28 April 2023.
7. "Reading Adventures"; books and libraries; *Friday, The Rising Nepal*; May 2023.
8. "My First Flight Experience"; travel to the US; *Friday, The Rising Nepal*; 10 February 2023.
9. "Sapta Rishis"; the Big Dipper has seven stars which signify seven of the greatest gurus of South East Asia; *Muna*; July 2022.
10. "Photographing Elephants"; *Friday Supplement, The Rising Nepal*; 21 July 2022.
11. "Making Neighborhoods Better"; gardens, playgrounds, and exercise areas for the people; *Friday Supplement, The Rising Nepal*; 3 June 2022.
12. "Seeing through the Lens"; *Friday Supplement, The Rising Nepal*; 4 March 2022...

EXHIBITIONS & PERFORMANCES

Solo exhibitions and arts projects, major

- "Giants of This World"; photographs of elephants and whales; Art Stacks at the Twin Beaches Library, Chesapeake Beach; June to August 2025
- "Songs for Elephants"; photo exhibition, music, and writing at the Patan Museum; Stand Up for Elephants (SU4E) and Spiny Babbler; 2022
- "Unlimited Children"; art, writing, photography, and music at more than 20 schools across Nepal from 2022 to 2024
- "Early Creations"; solo exhibition; Nepal Art Council; October 12, 2016 followed up by sharing and shows in different schools such as Manjushree English Medium School, Hilarus School, and others

Group art exhibitions and music performances

- Local artists sharing music, Twin Beaches Library, Chesapeake Beach, Maryland; 2025
- Saxophone performances, group and solo, Windy Hill Middle School, Maryland, 2024-25.
- Songs, flute, and piano features, Etta J Wilson Elementary, Spring and Summer, 2024.
- "Children's Music Festival 2020"; group performance; Spiny Babbler and Story Cycle; September 2020
- "Children's Music Festival 2020"; group performance; Spiny Babbler and Story Cycle; August 2020
- "International Music Day 2020"; group performance; Om Crescendo music festival; June 2020
- "Ukali Orali" a solo performance on the flute with two other group presentations; Saraswoti Hall, Shuvatara Valedictory Event for SEE graduates; July 2019
- Performances in various villages and informal gatherings
- "Genius 2017"; group exhibition; Patan Museum; March 2017
- "Genius 2016"; group presentation; Spiny Babbler; March 2016
- "The National Anthem"; group performance, flute, QFX Cinema, launch of a Search television series on police work; 2018

MEDIA COVERAGE of Vidheha's Work

- *Muna* front cover with feature article, Vidheha and her early creations
- *Angkur* front cover with profile article featuring Vidheha
- *Kopila*, front cover with profile article featuring Vidheha
- Features by *Friday, Junkiri, Canvas, The Rising Nepal, Recent Nepal, Xpress Khabar, Ratopati, Samacharpatra*
- News coverage by *Nagarik, ECS, Hindu National Weekly*, and others
- Television, Ankhijhyal feature, NEFEJ and Nepal Television

SAMPLE IMAGES

Giants of This World

Please email pallavranjan@gmail.com for high resolution versions of these images





IMAGES OF THE ARTIST

Vidheha Ranjan

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