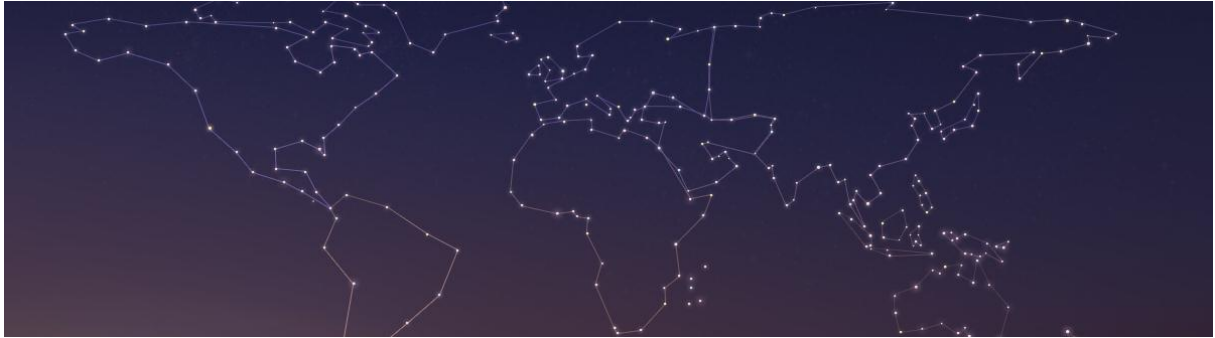


WOMEN WITH BROKEN WINGS



Press Kit

Women with Broken wings

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Women with Broken Wings

Women with Broken Wings is a humanist project of international scale dedicated to the cause of assassinated women. Elizabeth Sombart felt the urgency to create a Foundation, which aims to raise global consciousness about the crimes committed onto women by other human beings.



Women in the World

An introduction in figures and facts, before we make room for eternal memory and the seeds of change.

- **At least 1 in 3 women** in the world is battered or a victim of abuse during her life
- In India, annual dowry-related deaths are estimated at **15 000**
- **20 to 70%** of women victims of mistreatment have never spoken up about their experience before being interrogated (**Source: Amnesty International**)
- In France, near **400 women** die each year due to domestic violence (**Source: French Ministry of the Interior**)
- In Italy, almost **70% of women** are victims of violence (**Source: FIDH - Worldwide Human Rights Movement**)
- In the United Kingdom **2 women** each week are victims of violence (**Source: Amnesty International**)
- Honor killings are still found in legal codes of Peru, Bangladesh, Argentina, Cisjordan, Egypt, Ecuador, Guatemala, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Venezuela. (**Source: United Nations Commission on Human Rights**)

Women with Broken Wings

Some of the numbers are appalling; and the anonymity of these abuses is a form of destitution of the soul. Let's try anew, providing vestures to cover their souls.

Who are they?

- *All the women of the Earth, without distinction in citizenship, ethnicity, religion or political, economic and social situation,*
- *Who disappeared in the anonymity of their name, the circumstances or the motivations,*
- *Victims of fanaticism, prejudice and the cupidity of other men and women.*



What Promise?

We hope to give women with broken wings a space of eternal memory, homage and contemplation; so that the men and women of the world never ignore nor forget the violence they underwent.

The Foundation

Offering universal recognition for all assassinated women in the world, the Foundation is a place for memory where they will no longer be faceless but honored.



« After 25 years of touring the world, confidences from women who felt liberated through music nourished and amazed me, but also took me aback. I felt obliged to testify, to give a name and a space of love to all those women who have disappeared in anonymity but also to all those who will have their wings broken in the future. This space of love is born as a website, a sort of *living, celestial place of memory* where the visible and the invisible will meet and create unity, communion, sharing, spiritual recognition and offering.

We will all be able to connect with one or many women with broken wings by giving them a word, an offering, whether large or small or even a prayer to pay them tribute.

Our gestures become symbols that bear witness to something bigger than ourselves, something beyond ourselves... in a living relationship from each one of us toward each woman we will have chosen. »

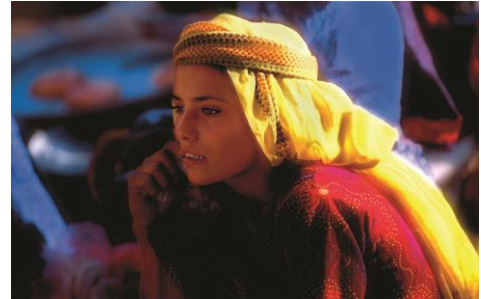
Elizabeth Sombart, President

The Action

Facing the immensity of the task, it is our duty to join forces with and pay recognition to the organizations already at work.

Concrete Goal

All around the world, artists of international renown perform for the benefit of local NGO's: by staging rarely-before-seen events, we offer these organizations strong media exposure to help raise consciousness in their countries.



Virtual Goal

New innovations to carve into collective memory the name and the face of these women, and thus opening the way to a new, universal form of contemplation.

3 Tools

- Artistic events throughout the world to share and give exposure to the cause,
- A permanent virtual space to hold the face and voice of each woman with broken wings and all those who pay them tribute,
- A filmed documentary to instruct and witness in space and time.

The Website

Exclusively devoted to the cause of assassinated women, this site is a genuine space of permanent generosity. Since it is accessible by everyone, we all have a chance to educate ourselves, to share with others and to freely pay tribute to the victims.

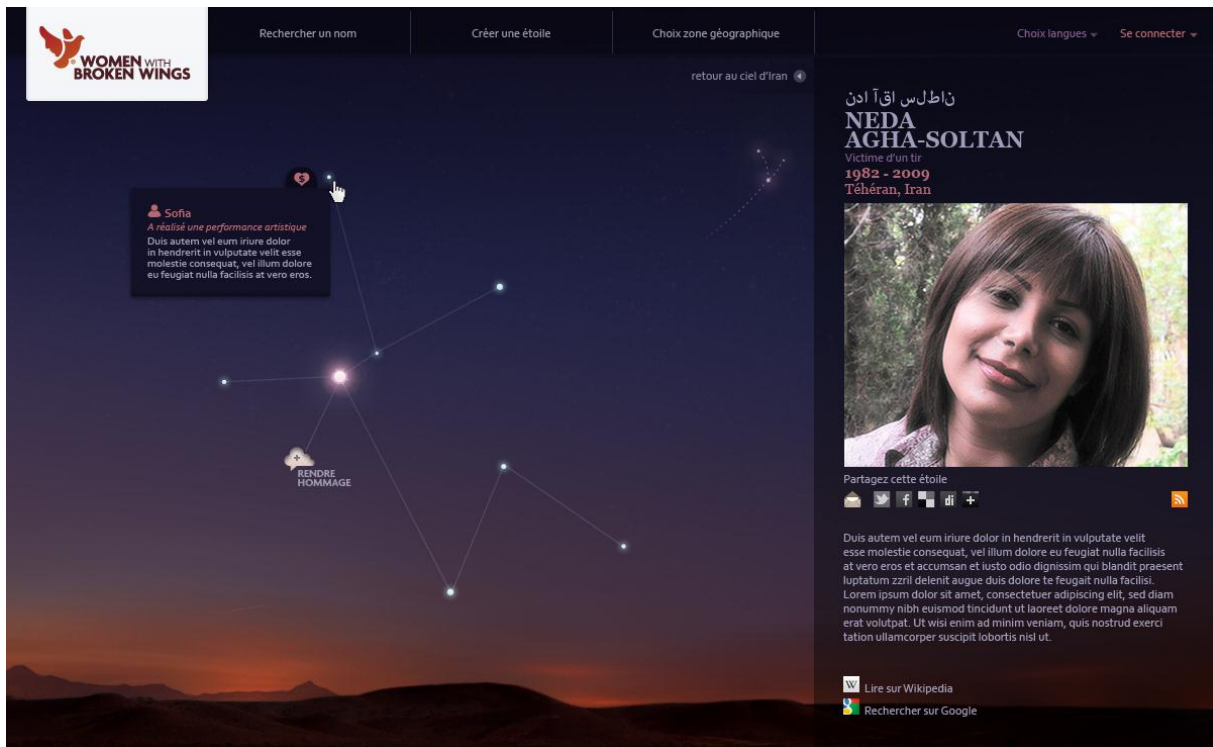
It offers women with broken wings a spot for eternal remembrance, homage and consolation so that men and women all around the world do not forget the violence these women endured and in hope that love wins over hatred, truth over lies, intelligence over foolishness and tolerance over fanaticism. Contemplation, thought and offerings are testimonials leading to awareness.

The website is therefore a sky filled with stars representing the women to honor. Visitors are then able to search, read or create a star in tribute to a woman who was killed anonymously.

It is also possible to light a star carrying an offering, an initiative to one of the martyr women. Offerings can be diverse: a donation, a prayer, a writing, a minute of the day, a concert, a pledge, an act by an organization, a message, a daily gesture, depending on one's desire and abilities.

Together, the stars for the women with broken wings and those of the offerings they receive reveal heavenly constellations.

In this way, we forge a relation and give meaning to our acts beyond the act itself or for itself: we freely give it to the other...



Each offering will be written down on the website along the name of the victim. Users will then make a chain around a single dead woman.

Through the years, the website will constitute a virtual memory for all assassinated women, reminding us of what we are able to do and becoming a moral support for those mourning.

The site will also include a directory of organizations that support women with broken wings, a bibliography of literary and academic resources on the subject, and will offer the

possibility of watching or listening to films, interviews or recordings, of reading articles from partner media, as well as providing a calendar of the concerts, meetings, gatherings, walks, debates, etc.

The platform will be complete with a travel journal of the artists of the Foundation, consisting of a blog with pictures and open comments on the concerts and cultural encounters of Women with Broken Wings.

Communication about the project will also be sustained by a series of events and texts.

Website's Functionalities

To inform

- A directory with proactive organizations
- Academic articles
- News and press articles
- Dates of future meetings

To remember

- A star for each woman with broken wings
- A travel journal of all meetings
- All forms of donations to perpetuate memory

To educate through

- A bibliography of writings
- A discovery of graphic and musical works of art
- Documentaries

The Performance

This bridge between two rich artistic universes pays a poignant homage to all women on Earth, without distinction. Uniting dance and classical piano, the show is a good opportunity to put the efforts of local organizations in the spotlight.

Birth of the show

The show is born from the union in 2010 of two women, two confirmed artists, coming from two different artistic, social and cultural worlds, one European, a classical pianist, Elizabeth Sombart, and the other Indian, a classical dancer, Mallika Sarabhai.

Heirs of two traditions – the East and the West – these two artists improvise over Rachmaninoff Elegie and feel that there is a kind of magic, of the emotion that calls for seeing and hearing, beyond the words, about a particular situation of a woman in suffering.

The story of *Women with Broken Wings*

The twelve-picture performance describes twelve states of mind to share and bear witness of the condition of women with broken wings, through the art.

This show aims to bear witness that whatever the religion, tradition, culture or language, a communion is possible where Beauty, Truth and Goodness appear to all. It is also the show's responsibility to narrate, acknowledge and testify to the unspeakable pain of all women with broken wings, in order to open up consciences to this yet too often abstract reality.



The tour of the Show

The performance *Women with Broken Wings* will go on a two-legged tour, each lasting about one month. The first leg will begin in India for **IntrArt**: the Vikram Sarabhai International Arts Festival, December 28, 2012, and throughout January. The second leg will take place in Europe's major capitals in the fall of 2013.

Moreover, according to their availabilities, Elizabeth Sombart and Mallika Sarabhai will try to answer any invitation for occasional performances.

The documentary

A documentary of the performance together with interviews and commentaries will contribute to the activities of the Foundation and help promote the website.

In following the creative aspect of the project, the film will not only reveal the lives and different cultural origins of Elizabeth Sombart and Mallika Sarabhai, but also the motivation of both these extraordinary women, who gave life to this project.

The documentary will be directed by Indian filmmaker Yadavan Chandran, who, for over ten years, has captured the stories of women and the problems they face. His own documentary, *Soul Voice, Solo Voice*, which follows the steps of Rukma Bai, an amazing folk singer from Bramer, Rajasthan and the first woman of the Manganiyar community to sing in public, won him many awards.

The documentary will enable:

- The introduction of the project and its goal; to expose, acknowledge, support, inform and testify to the unspeakable sufferings of women in the world.
- The access to concert halls and exposure to press articles and media reports with the aim of relaying the sessions, showing the realities and bringing some artistic beauty
- Fundraising for the project and partner NGO's

Targeted TV and networks around the world:

Arte / TV 5 Monde / CNN (Heroes) / Mezzo / Al Jazeera / Rai 3 / Vatican TV / Doordarshan

Project leaders

Elizabeth Sombart, *pianist*



Born in Strasburg, Elizabeth Sombart started studying the piano, aged 7. She joined the musical academy of her hometown and performed in public for the first time when she was 11. After obtaining the First National Prize for piano and chamber music at 16, she decided to leave France to perfect her art in Buenos Aires with Bruno-Leonardo Gelber and his mother. She then completed her training with great masters, such as Peter Feuchtwanger in London, Hilde Langer-Rühl in Vienna, where she furthered a study on the use of breathing in piano playing and, finally, with Sergiu Celibidache at Mainz University where she attended courses in musical phenomenology for a further 10 years.

Elizabeth Sombart performs all over the world where the most prestigious concert halls welcome her: *Theatre of the Champs-Élysées* in Paris, *Carnegie Hall* in New York, *Wigmore Hall* in London, *Konzerthgebouw* in Amsterdam, *Suntory Hall* in Tokyo, *Palau Hall* in Barcelona and *Victoria Hall* in Geneva. She plays duets with Augustin Dumay (violin), Patrick Gallois (flute), Luis Claret (cello) and Akiko Nakajima (soprano). She performs with the National Orchestra of Lille, at the Strasburg Festival, the Bruckner Academy in Munich and the XXI Century Orchestra of Catalonia.

She has recorded a large discography and videography including *L'Art de la Fugue* with Jean-Christophe Geiser on organ on the IFO-Verlag label. Elizabeth Sombart published at the Edition J-C Lattès *La Musique au Coeur de l'Émerveillement* and at A. Michel *Paroles d'harmonie*.

Her series of 50 programs, presenting an anthology of classical music, produced by Peter Knapp and broadcast on France 3 TV, was entitled *Confidences pour piano de Bach à Bartok*. Journalist and director Serge Schmidt released a filmed portrait, *Elizabeth Sombart, une musique aux couleurs de l'âme*, which was broadcast on Swiss TV (TSR).

Founder and president of the Résonnance foundation, Elizabeth Sombart has dedicated the past 25 years of her life to giving piano master-classes in universities and top music schools in Switzerland and abroad (Paris, Lausanne, Rome, Barcelona, Louvain, Beirut and Kaslik). In 2009, she was made an instructor at the EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) and in 2011 at the Sergei Rachmaninoff Russian Conservatory of Paris.

In 2006, she was elevated to the rank of Knight of the National Order of Merit for the entirety of her work and, in 2008, Knight in the Order of Arts and Letters for her artistic career.

Mallika Sarabhai, *artist*



Dr. Mallika V. Sarabhai is an internationally acclaimed performance artist, social activist, producer and director who has championed the use of arts as an instigator for social change for many years. Since 1978, Mallika has been Director of the Darpana Academy, a multi-arts institution in Ahmedabad. Under her leadership, Darpana has become one of the leading institutions in creating innovative ways to engage communities in tackling social and environmental issues. Born on May 9, 1953, Mallika grew up in a household of creators, innovators and leaders. Mallika excelled in academics, receiving her MBA from the Indian Institute of Management at the age of 20 and her Doctorate in Organizational Behavior from Gujarat University at the age of 22. In 1978 she became director of the Darpana Academy

which her mother, Mrinalini Sarabhai, founded in 1949.

Dr. Sarabhai’s work as a producer and director of television began in 1980. In 2000 she became the CEO of the TARA channel in Gujarat. In a short period of time, TARA established itself as a ground-breaking species of television. Dr. Sarabhai and Darpana Communications have, since 2002, produced over 3000 hours of broadcast material with the aim of turning popular television into a venue for people to express their concerns, understand other perspectives, learn about their own world, and instigate change. Dr. Sarabhai and Darpana Communications continue to create material that is as entertaining and compelling as it is bold, innovative, and relevant to society.

Dr. Sarabhai’s innovative work has won her many awards and accolades, including the *Padma Bhushan* from the Government of India, the *Chevalier de Arts et Lettres* from the Government of France, the *International Lifetime Achievements Award* 2009 by International Congress of Women, the *Crystal Award* 2009 by Davos World Economic Forum, the *UNFPA – Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity* 2006-07 for consistent artistic engagement on gender issues, the *Paul Harris Fellowship* by the Rotary International New Delhi, 2004, the *Sangeet Natak Akademi Award* for Creative Dance, 2001, the *Chevalier des Palmes Académiques* from the French Government in 1999, the *Gaurav Puraskar* for her contribution to the arts from the Government of Gujarat in 1992, *Gold Medal - CIOFF Dijon* for leading the best folk dance group in 1984, the *Golden Star Award* for Best Dance Soloist from the Théâtre Des Champs-Élysées in 1977.

The Sponsors

The *Women with Broken Wings Foundation* survives thanks to the generous undertakings of the following partners, which engage at our side for progress.

Christopher Wasserman	Carlo d’Asaro Biondo	Jacqueline Moudeina	Jeanne Moreau
Shirin Ebadi	Nathalie d’Asaro Biondo	Robert Hossein	Véronique Genest
Souad	David Shabtai	Thierry Lhermitte	Sheila McKinnon

