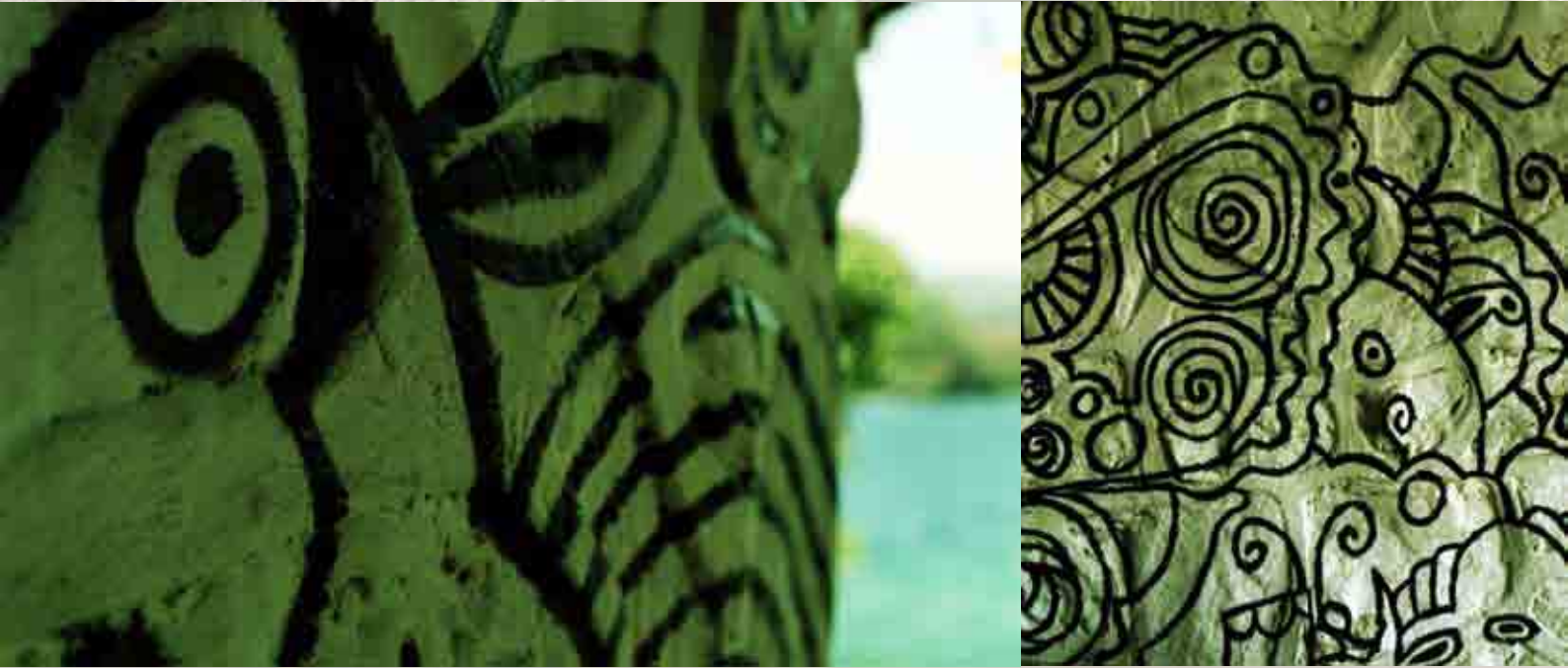


Malawi Mural Proposal Dan Arnold.



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Aim.

To create two murals through collaboration with the local community at the Education Centre being built by Phunzira (www.phunzira.co.uk) in Ruarwe, Northern Malawi.

Murals in Ruarwe, Northern Malawi.

As part of the Education Centre I will become an Artist in Residence. Initially I will work closely with the site manager and help with the construction of the centre. This period will allow me the time to meet the local community and talk about what influences their world, what they would like to see incorporated into the murals, and what images they identify with. The first mural will grow out of the ground, colours borne from the surrounding landscape and evolving into a pattern intrinsically linked with Ruarwe and the local community. One possible location is in the outdoor meeting area of the centre. The second mural will take the form of a giant blackboard and will be much more transient. It will change as the centre changes and evolves, a sounding board accessible to everyone, a space for people to voice their opinion, each time it changes it will be documented. One possible location is the indoor adult meeting room.

Further Initiatives:

1. Art Classes

Running concurrently with the creation of the murals I will offer drop-in art classes. These classes will teach basic principles with the ultimate aim of creating work that can then be sold to tourists and travellers. The goal is for individuals to develop their own artistic styles, to realise their potential, and to create work that varies from the generic artwork already on offer. I intend to exhibit work created at the centre at galleries and events rooms in London, where any profits from sales will be redirected to those Malawians involved in the creations.

2. Printing/Sales of Drawings

I also intend to introduce simple printing processes, such as linocuts and woodcuts, to the centre. This will allow people to create editions of work, possibly in the form of postcards and greetings cards, in turn generating a direct source of income. These prints would be sold primarily at lodges in Malawi, but there is also scope for selling to wider audiences.

3. Chitengi Design Exclusive to Ruarwe

Chitengis are everywhere in Malawi, and all over Africa under different names. They are lengths of fabric with a multitude of uses, such as sarongs, head wraps, curtains and table covers. Creating a design exclusive to the centre would further cement the bond between the centre and the communities involved in developing it, and would provide a common identity to connect the four regions involved.



My background.

I am a 29 year old artist currently living and working in London. I graduated from the University of Brighton in 2003 with a First Class degree in Illustration. Recent commissions include a large 35-foot mural at Blossom House School in London, which will be completed at the end of June. I have travelled extensively in Africa and my work is hugely linked to, and influenced by, what I have seen and the people that I have met. In 2008 I travelled to Malawi and fell in love with the country. After travelling the length and breadth of the country, as well as through parts of Tanzania, I returned to Northern Malawi to become more immersed in the local communities. I was invited to create two large murals at Butterfly Lodge in Nkhata Bay, a lodge that has worked hard to establish close links with the local community in that area. The murals were well received by all (please see the included images). Another major achievement involves a film I made in Madagascar over a period of seven months during 2006; which incorporated building a solar powered video camera kit. This same equipment will be used to document the murals at the centre as they are created.

Education Centre Background.



Ruarwe

The centre will be based in Ruarwe, a small town on the lakeshore of Lake Malawi (formerly Lake Nyasa) that lies roughly 80km north of Nkhata Bay and 493km north of the capital Lilongwe.

The centre is being funded by Phunzira (a UK charity) and is a self-sustainable venture whose ownership will eventually be passed in full to the community.

The centre will lie between two secondary schools and a number of primary schools, and will be accessible free of charge to members of the local communities in the four regions involved.

Detailed information about the charity and the centre can be found at www.phunzira.co.uk.



The Next Step.

Cash Donations

I am seeking donations in return for acknowledgements both on the murals and at future exhibitions. Any donors will also have access to high quality images of the work created. Cash donations would be spent in Malawi on equipment and materials, therefore directly benefitting the national economy.

Materials

Gesso
A range of paints
Rollers and brushes
Varnish
Lino and cutting equipment
Printing inks

(Phunzira is organising a container shipment to Malawi in July/August 2010)

Contact Details.

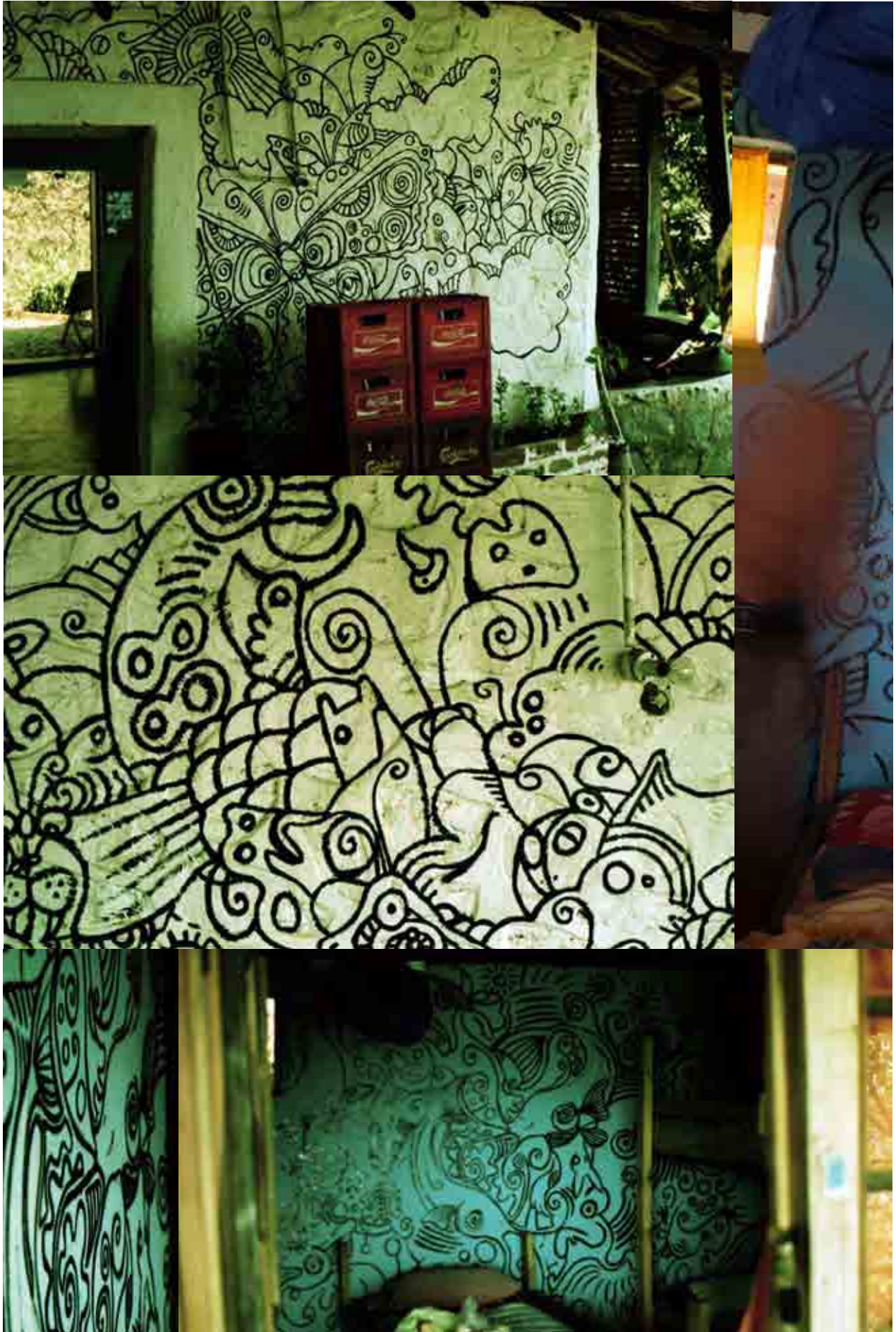
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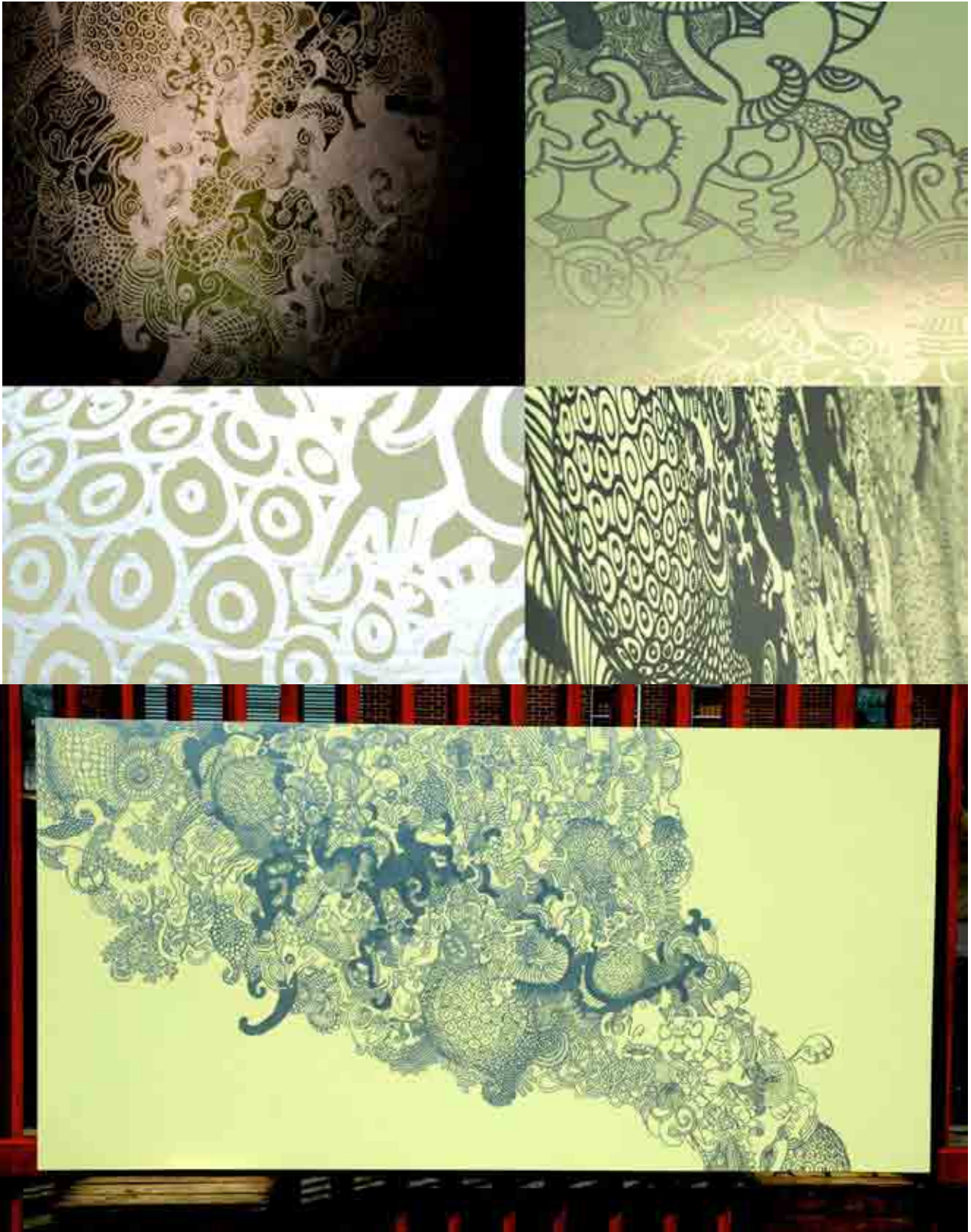




Murals at Butterfly Lodge, Nkhata Bay, Malawi.



Murals at Butterfly Lodge, Nkhata Bay, Malawi.



Silver Diatoms, 8' x 4', silver ink on enamel board.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.
Dan Arnold
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