



Farm
(Austria)

Cows and other livestock are grazing freely on lush pastures at the foot of the verdant Alps. The cowherd shown taking a rest is wearing the folk dress that was the working attire of people in the mountains: an Alpine hat and a distinctive jacket and pants.



My Village
(Belgium)

This picture painted in beautiful colors is reminiscent in some ways of the work of the early 20th-century Swiss painter Paul Klee. It provides a sense of Europe's culture of fine art, which forms the backdrop to the creation of such pictures.



A Small Farm
(Denmark)

Denmark is renowned as a country with a thriving agricultural and livestock sector. This picture of a horse pulling a cart that is carrying animal feed or crops shows a tranquil rural landscape before the advent of modern mechanized farming techniques.



Drummers
(Republic of Sri Lanka)

The rhythm of this horizontal double-ended drum is essential to traditional Sri Lankan music. The method used to create contrasts of color through heavy outlines, such as the people beating the double-ended drums in this picture, is linked to the technique of batik.



Festival
(Taiwan)

Taiwan's lion dances are very brightly colored compared to Japan's. Colorful lion dances like the one shown in this picture can still be seen today. Children's paintings show not only how times change, but also how things remain unchanged through the generations.



Woodcutters
(Malaysia)

Malaysia's lush tropical rainforests are also a treasure trove of timber resources. This picture shows indigenous woodcutters chopping down trees by hand, rather than mass felling using machines. The serious environmental destruction that we see today had not yet progressed at that stage.

Introduction to Pictures from the Worldwide Friendship Picture Exchange Program



The IE-NO-HIKARI Association, a member of the Japan Agricultural Cooperatives (JA) Group, was established to contribute to the cultural enhancement of rural communities through publishing and cultural activities, based on the cooperative spirit.

The Worldwide Friendship Picture Exchange Program was launched in 1954 to mark the 30th anniversary of the magazine *Ie no Hikari* and ran until 1980. Its objective was to foster international friendship through the exchange of pictures between children overseas and the children of agricultural cooperative members in Japan.

The pictures submitted from across the globe were exhibited throughout Japan, attracting high praise from every quarter. Through the relevant cooperatives, the submissions by children overseas were donated to Japanese schools that had produced prizewinning entries, while the pictures by Japanese children were sent abroad. The pictures were compiled into a book called *Good Friends Picture Album*. In 1993, the program was renamed the World Children's Picture Contest and it still continues today.

Professor Takuya Kaneda of Otsuma Women's University is highly knowledgeable about art produced by children overseas and has been kind enough to provide a commentary on some of the pictures submitted.

We hope that the many children who saw these pictures not only looked at the familiar scenes of nature and agriculture, but also took them as an opportunity to expand their horizons on the world and cultivate a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

IE-NO-HIKARI Association



Welcome, Friends Around the World
(Soviet Union)

The socialist regime of the former Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. The title of this picture and the various national flags flying on the boat that it shows seem to symbolize the ideal country that the Soviet Union was trying to achieve through socialism.



A Walk
(South Africa)

The people out for a walk shown in this picture are all blue-eyed and white-skinned. It was not until 1994 that apartheid—South Africa's policy of racial segregation, which discriminated between white and non-white people—was abolished.



Blind Man's Buff
(France)

Even in France, where most children today enjoy playing games on screens, there was a time when games such as blind man's buff were popular. As well as the game itself, the design of the clothes worn by the children in this picture provides a sense of changing times.



Procession of Prayer
(West Germany)

After World War II, Germany was split into two countries: West Germany and the socialist state of East Germany. This picture was sent from West Germany. It was in 1990 that the Berlin Wall came down and Germany was reunified.



A Village
(Afghanistan)

Invaded by the Soviet army in the 1970s, then ruled by the Taliban, Afghanistan has experienced turbulent times over the years. Amid this turmoil, the number of nomads, who move from place to place and live in black tents such as the one shown in this picture, has fallen sharply in recent years.



Harvesting
(South Korea)

The joy of the autumn harvest amid the golden ears of rice is a timeless experience, but the passage of time can be seen in the scarecrows and in the children helping with the rice harvest, which were common sights in the rural landscape in Japan, as well, a few decades ago.



Party at Home
(Czechoslovakia)

Czechoslovakia was a socialist country until in 1993, when it separated into two countries: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. This picture provides a very real sense of the high quality of all the pictures submitted from the former socialist states of Eastern Europe.



A Bustling Town
(Syria)

Looking at the people coming and going in the bazaar full of various items shown in this picture, we can see that many of the people—men and women alike—are wearing folk dress. Syria, which was once a modern, peaceful country, is now beset by the turmoil of a civil war.



Festival
(Soviet Union)

Shown in this picture is the Volga River, which flows through a city that was called Stalingrad, but which was renamed Volgograd after the river in 1961, due to criticism of Stalin. The change in the city's name highlights a part of history.



Houses in the Sunshine
(USA)

The style of this picture is reminiscent of the paintings of Dutch-born artist Willem de Kooning, who became one of the leading exponents of action painting, which took the US by storm in the 1950s and 1960s. We can see how great an interest the leaders at that time had in contemporary art.



Broken Down Car
(Nigeria)

It was only in 1999 that a democratic administration took power in Nigeria after years of civil war. This picture was painted during the turbulent pre-democratization period, but conveys a sense of daily life at a time when the country had begun to modernize.



Musician
(India)

This picture shows a musician playing the tabla, a traditional folk instrument. India has achieved stunning economic development in some respects in recent years, but traditional music of this kind still survives in the Indian lifestyle of today.



Working
(Uruguay)

Since 1955, the South American country of Uruguay has experienced ongoing economic stagnation and political turmoil. The workers engaged in welding shown in this picture evoke a sense of the social momentum for industrialization and a shift away from the country's primary focus on livestock farming at that time.



**Fairy Tale:
The Fox**
(Kazakh Republic)

Until it became the Republic of Kazakhstan upon gaining independence in 1991, the Kazakh Republic was one of the republics that made up the former Soviet Union. The Kazakh people have passed down through the generations a traditional hunting method for capturing foxes and other animals using golden eagles.