

# 1000 Women for Peace

by Cara Anaam

Since it was first awarded in 1901, more than 100 years ago, only 12 women have received the Nobel Prize for Peace. Yet throughout the world, millions of women work daily to promote peace.

Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, as a member of the Council of Europe, visited refugee camps in many parts of the world and met women everywhere who were working to create a culture of peace in very dangerous surroundings. As she puts it:



Jamaica: Tomorrow, Homage to Edna Manley  
by Betty LaDuke

They manage the difficult task of obtaining food and medicine for those in need. They look for missing persons and struggle to acquire better living conditions for refugees. They give schooling to orphans in order to distract them from their war experiences and ghastly memories and to bring structure and courage into these children's daily lives. They unequivocally condemn torture, murder and abductions, and they document with clandestine photos the war parties' brutalities. They take to the streets and, against the will of the authorities, hold vigils of protest in public places. It is women who are victims of war. It is women who weep for the dead, they are the survivors who press for a return to peace. Courageous and resolute, and without regard for personal safety, they demand peace.

Vermot-Mangold was haunted by the women's invisibility to the wider world where recognition is given and monetary awards handed out. She felt compelled to remedy the situation and worked with teams of women from 20 different regions of the world to identify 1000 women who would represent the millions who work for peace daily. This group has been nominated to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. The idea is that the vision, strategies, methods, and networks of these women will be publicized and serve as models and inspiration for others and that the women themselves will receive encouragement and support for their efforts.

*The 1000 women are listed and their work described on a multilingual Web site <[www.1000peacewomen.org](http://www.1000peacewomen.org)>*

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Cara Anaam is the coeditor of The Change Agent.

## About the Artist

Betty LaDuke is a highly accomplished painter, printmaker, activist, and teacher whose work celebrates cultural diversity and the planet we live on. She has three circulating theme exhibits that are available to be rented for exhibition. To see her work and find out more about how to exhibit her art go to her Web site <[www.bettyladuke.com](http://www.bettyladuke.com)>.