

The Well: World Vision's Water Warrior Award by artist Gil Bruvel

Look at the faces of children feeling the first exciting cascade of cool, fresh water from a newly drilled well. Watch their eyes as they lift a cup of sweet, clean water to their mouths. There is nothing on earth more fundamental than every human's birthright to clean water. Artist Gil Bruvel contemplated this truth as he envisioned his design for World Vision's Water Warrior Award. What he saw in these children's faces was delight, aliveness, pure joy. Their expressions, instantly clear in the universal language of the human face, reflect the deeper experience of their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and every member of their families and villages: immeasurable gratitude, deep relief, a sense of connection with the earth and all that grows and lives on it, a feeling of being blessed.

With simplicity and immediacy, Bruvel's design incorporates all these layers of human experience and emotion. In ribbons of stainless steel, a medium for which the French-born, Texas-based artist has earned international acclaim, the sculpture embodies a sense of purity and the fluid, reflective quality of water. It speaks of a harmonious, interdependent flow in the relationship between people and the life-giving earth. On another level, through both its title and image *The Well* points to the essential role of children and youth in nurturing and ensuring our future on this planet, and therefore, the need for all children to receive safe, clean water and other necessities of life.

Bruvel's design also represents the artist's personal expression of gratitude for the spirit of altruism and generosity that moves individuals and organizations around the world to address this basic human right. His creation honors World Vision and its donors and celebrates World Vision's ongoing invaluable contributions to the lives of people, especially children, in conditions of greatest need. In particular, *The Well* represents a deep bow of appreciation for the gifts of World Vision's first two Water Warriors, David and Dana Dornsife, and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

"I'm extremely happy to be part of this, if only on the periphery," Bruvel says. "It allows me to witness, to see in detail what real success is. For donors there cannot be a better choice than this." The artist points out that as a private initiative—the world's largest nongovernmental provider of clean water—World Vision is able to work with communities to establish local ownership, support, and long-term maintenance and repair of its projects in ways not possible through the political realm. Reflecting on the organization's efforts, he is reminded of the "butterfly effect" in physics: that something as seemingly infinitesimal as the air displaced by the beating of butterfly wings can lead to enormous changes later in time or elsewhere in the world. In this spirit, every donation, no matter how small, contains the power of those butterfly wings. "You don't have to be a billionaire to help. Anyone can pitch in and make a difference," Bruvel says. "World Vision's work is a genuine inspiration to me."