

COWBOYS AND INDIANS

Oil, ink, bleach and photography on canvas.

During my travels in India, I was standing outside a well known landmark and tourist attraction when an Asian boy approached, requesting me to take his photograph. The photograph repeatedly used in 'Cowboys and Indians' has a total of seventeen boys in it, who suddenly 'turned up' for the snap. As I took the photograph a large number of tourists with camera's began snapping away at me, creating a bizarre performance of contrasting surrealism. On one side of the lens was an image of poverty stricken India, whilst around me were surreal images created by Western wealth. This image of The Taj Mahal pays tribute to all the charity aid workers who commit their lives to helping people in need, and highlights the corruption involving the middle man, the cowboy, whose responsibility it is to ensure that all aid reaches its destination safely. On occasions it doesn't.



X 10	X 10,000
a boy appears and enters the frame for a snapshot and a moment of fame	a shanty desert that will only deliver a fly – blown life by a dead river
X 20	X 50,000
a group poses to mark the occasion of another Taj Mahal tourist invasion	a last gasp an anonymous grave debris tossed on a tidal wave
X50	X 1000,000
a town heaves with traffic and noise and thousands of other anonymous boys	a thousand souls who did not choose to become statistics on the evening news
X 100	X 5000,000
a sun sets on a dusty plain where all eyes turn west and dream again	a photograph is all that remains of discarded lives and unknown names
X 1000	X 1,000,000
a pinprick resort where the wealthy feed built with the cash of corruption and greed	a million memories we all forgot save for a smile in that single shot