



Supporters Newsletter

July 2004

Dear Supporter,

Once again its time to bring you up to date with developments at Artform UK. Things continue to grow as usual and we're now well established at our new base near Penrith. Don't forget, if you are ever in the area of the Lake District please feel free to call in. It's been a busy year for both ourselves and the charities we support, fund raising is never easy but the last twelve months have been tougher than usual due to all the global uncertainty. We'd like to thank you on behalf of The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, The Orangutan Foundation and the Jane Goodall Institute for all your support.

Gorillas News

Coltan Extraction

Well we have quite a lot of news for you about the Dian Fossey gorilla range, but first some information you may find interesting. A new threat to the survival of gorillas has emerged over the last few years and many people are just not aware of it. Inside many mobile phones and other hi tech gadgets is a material called tantalum oxide, this substance is extracted from natural coltan which is found in areas of volcanic activity. One such area is that in Africa where lowland and mountain gorillas live. As a consequence of the massive increase in demand for coltan over the last ten years a great deal of illegal extraction has taken place by groups of miners all of whom place demands for food and fuel on the local environment. The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund are working hard along with other organisations to present the miners with viable alternative areas and techniques

so that their activities can be controlled in an area with such a fragile ecological balance. If you have any ideas as to how pressure can be exerted on the manufacturers of mobile phones please let us know.

Gorilla Range Developments

Easter 2004 saw the launch of the four new gorilla studies pictured opposite. Little detail other than names is known about three of them but Ubuzima has had a very troubled life. In a press release in May 2002 The Dian Fossey Fund announced that poachers had attacked a group of mountain gorillas killing two females and capturing an infant. Found clinging to the body of one of the females (Muraha) was her 13 month old infant Ubuzima. Rwandan vet Dr. Tony Mudakikwa checked over the infant and gave her fluids, he then watched as a young blackback male called Nyarusizi carried the infant back into the group. Muraha, her mother, was 25 years old and had been named by the Fund. She had also appeared alongside Dian Fossey in documentary films as well as with Sigourney Weaver in 'Gorillas in the Mist'. All four pieces are now available at your local stockist or directly from us at Artform UK.



Future range additions and retirements

In autumn we are launching a new large piece which should be available in time for Christmas 2004. This piece depicts a mother and young from the

Izuru & Bikwi
Available autumn
2004



Suza group and is called Izuru & Bikwi. Izuru was born on 15th December 1978 and has produced three other offspring as well as Bikwi. This piece stands approx 39cm (15") tall and looks very impressive. Once again Pat has perfectly caught the pose and expressions of the mountain gorilla.

This new piece will replace the other two large sculptures that we currently have in the range namely G004 Ijicho & Infants and G005 Ryango. Ijicho was one of the original four sculptures when we launched the range in 1999 and Ryango is the blackback male that was added in 2000. Your local stockist will be able to order both of these pieces until the end of December 2004 but once these orders are fulfilled the moulds will be destroyed and production will cease. Alternatively you can order them direct from ourselves by calling 01768 885500. Get your orders in early to be sure of completing your collection! Other items to be retired are the set of six fridge magnets which will cease production this month.

Range Retirements
Dec 2004



G004 Ijicho & Infants



G005 Ryango

Red Ape Orangutans

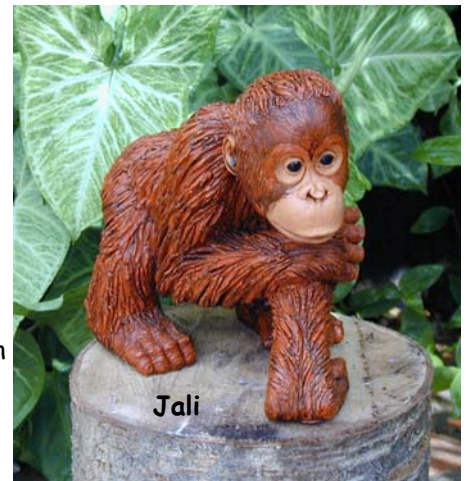


Sisca

Orangutans continue to be the most endangered of the great apes due to the accelerating rate of destruction of their natural habitat. Even though steps have been taken to clear the Tanjung Puting National Park of illegal logging it is estimated that 6000 were lost from the wild during 2003. Approaching 1,000 orphan orangutans now live in rescue and rehabilitation centers most being infants and juveniles. It is estimated that at least 5 individuals die for every orphan that reaches these centres.

Towards the back end of 2003 we launched two new orangutan sculptures both of which are pictured here. Sisca arrived in the clinic run by the Orangutan Foundation in very poor condition being thin and anemic. She has been cared for

since her arrival by IbuJuni (one of the caretakers) and has responded well. She loves the forest and spends all day in the trees, rarely climbing down to the floor. Jali has also suffered health problems resulting from an inadequate diet while being kept illegally as a pet. At first his weight gain was extremely slow but he is now fit and healthy although he is still the smallest of his group. His carers say "he loves the forest, not people" and will stay high in the trees for as long as possible.



Jali

Display Competition

You may remember that last year we ran a competition for the best display of our products by a collector. Well we're pleased to say that the winner, Mrs Lorraine Wills of Bristol, received her prize of a Guhonda the silverback earlier in the year. We'd like to complement her on a very impressive collection.

Web site development

Many of you have noticed how out of date our web site is! Well by the end of July it will be fully up to date with a new look and better navigation. Please take a look at www.artformuk.com

Guhonda The Silverback

We are regularly asked how far through the limited edition we are and at the time of writing we have just packed up number 600! This item alone has now generated almost £5000 for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund since it was first launched in 2002.

Moving?

Don't forget, if you are moving or your email address has changed please let us know so that we can keep our records up to date. Thank you for your continued support.

Artform (UK) Ltd, Station Yard, Plumpton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9PA

Tel: 01768 885500 Fax: 01768 885555 Email: supporters@artformuk.com Web: www.artformuk.com