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[Photos](#)
[Videos](#)
[Forum](#)
[Events](#)
[Groups](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Chat](#)

[All Blog Posts](#)
[My Blog](#)

[+ Add](#)



30th June 2008: The End

Posted by [rajni shah](#) on June 30, 2008 at 3:52pm

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So this to conclude the online residency. It is late and I am still in Switzerland, land of beauty and time and linguistic shifts. Today I ran a workshop with a group of women at [Espace Femmes](#). They could just about understand what I was saying but it was a struggle to have complex conversations about gift and talking to strangers. We went onto the street and they chose where to place their gifts- letters written to strangers explaining their stories, hopes, dreams, disappointments. They chose to place them right in the middle of the pavement. It looked like a monument to someone who had been killed in a traffic accident, but read 'des cadeaux pour vous'. I found it very moving, but I also hoped they would understand that people might treat it differently, with reverence or not, that they might take the letters and care for them or they might trample on them and throw them in the bin.

So we as artists offer people the chance to write, to make, to create. And we offer them the chance to have a voice. And in the end we cannot control anyone or anything. But if we can offer people the chance to let go, to come to an understanding and a strength in themselves that might be generous enough to understand why someone might or might not find a caring for the objects we have made, then that is perhaps the greatest gift of all.

So I thank you for your engagement with this blog and now I shall let it go, asking only that you take from it what enlightens you and carries you forward. I wish you good luck. r.x.



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Comment by [Phyllis Reeve](#) on July 5, 2008 at 7:49pm

Thank you, Rajni, for the gift of your June blog.

I printed your "Small Gifts" to post beside my desk as a reminder and memento.

Looking forward to What Happens Next.



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