

baerbel starz – **unityindiversity**

BAERBEL STARZ, UNITY IN DIVERSITY, PHOTOGRAPHS (2015)
CONTRIBUTION UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK (WIHW) MALAYSIA

Angels no longer have it especially easy in these our parts. Perhaps one has to travel to distant venues in order to rediscover them in a new form. To the artist Bärbel Starz, these winged envoys on their pilgrimage to Malaysia were resurrected as primary interreligious symbols of peace. For in all confessions of faith, the figure of the angel embodies the hope of lifelong companionship, protection and mediation on the journey to the divine. In a country with an incredibly multifaceted spiritual culture and a not always tension-free parallel evolution of Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Sikhs and Christians, there yet exists the possibility of a dialogue and mutual understanding.

The paradisaical-like photographs by Bärbel Starz show people of all ethnicities and all faiths in sumptuous tropical gardens, beside reflecting watery landscapes or endless beaches. They are contemplative rear-view figures, each turned towards the practice of their own belief, yet, in all their disparity, following a common, universal path.

by Martina Padberg
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