



KUKI GALLMANN
(b.1943)

Kuki Gallmann had a story to tell. As a child in her native Venice, in Italy, she dreamed of Africa. She first visited the continent as a teenager, travelling to the Sahara Desert with her father. She went to Africa again in 1970 and fell in love with the land. Finally, she was able to fulfill her dream and moved to Kenya with her second husband Paolo and son Emanuele in 1972.

Eventually, they bought Ol Ari Nyiro, a 100,000 acre cattle ranch in Northern Kenya, on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, with the largest population of Black Rhino in Africa and also with large numbers of other animals such as elephants, buffalo and leopards. Due to serious problems with poaching, the Gallmanns created the first anti-poaching squad anywhere, to protect the wildlife. Kuki Gallmann became deeply involved in conservation of wildlife and the environment after her experiences first hand.

In 1980, when she was expecting her second child, her husband Paolo died in a car accident. And three years later, her seventeen year old son, Emanuele, about to leave for Stamford University, was killed by a snake bite while attempting to extract venom to prepare serum from a viper. Despite these tremendous tragedies, Kuki Gallmann found the strength to create the Gallmann Memorial Foundation, dedicated to Paolo and Emanuele, who had both been deeply involved with the animals and the land. It was her way to honour their memory overcoming tragedy by positive action and creating a longlasting and positive legacy to the world. Thus Kuki Gallmann decided to dedicate her life and resources to saving the environment and wildlife of Kenya and started the Gallmann Memorial Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 1984 and among other things, Gallmann created a Black Rhino sanctuary and a wildlife preserve on the ranch. She also created the Laikipia Wilderness Centre for Environmental Education which helps African children, who usually cannot afford to visit the game parks, to experience the wonders of their own environment and learning how to help to preserve it. The Foundation aims to prove that Africa can survive out of the ecological, creative and sustainable use of its natural resources. Kuki Gallmann transformed Ol Ari Nyiro into a nature conservancy.

For more information about the Foundation, visit its interesting website www.gallmannkenya.org

Kuki Gallmann recently formed, with her daughter Sveva, the Great Rift Valley Trust, which aims to create the Great Rift Valley Academy, a would centre for excellence for artists and the arts on the conservancy of Ol Ari Nyiro, where world artists will come and create original art together with local artists at the cradle of human kind.

Kuki Gallmann wrote her autobiography, the international best seller "I Dreamed of Africa" to tell her moving story of overcoming her deep pain at her losses with positive action, and to speak of our responsibility to protect the earth and its natural wonders. The book has been published in 21 languages and was made into a major feature film by Columbia pictures starting Kim Basinger.

Other bestseller books by Kuki Gallmann include "African Nights", "Il Colore del Vento" ("The Colour of the Wind" a collection of poetry in Italian), "Night of the Lions" and the last, "Elefanti in Giardino" (Elephants in the garden).