



Floating Stone Enterprises

www.FloatingStone.biz

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Dear Friends,

I am really excited to tell you about recent developments at Floating Stone. While I love the business of buying and selling exotic and gorgeous silk products, my vision for Floating Stone has always been more about supporting sustainable enterprise for the people who make the products. This trip revealed many ways for Floating Stone to take bigger steps in this direction. Oh and by the way the silks from this trip are breathtaking. Any one interested in a home show will have first pick...call or email for a date as soon as possible.



Day one back in Cambodia

Floating Stone meets Bones that Float, over breakfast! Kari Grady Grossman adopted a baby boy in Cambodia eight years ago. Now she is keeping a school running for 485 students in the Cardamom Mountains in one of Cambodia's poorest provinces. *Bones that Float* is the story of two people that Kari met, one who escaped after the brutality of Pol Pot's regime to a new life in America and one who did not. This book is rich with heart and soul. The descriptions of starvation, toil and resilience transcend amazing story telling, to explain why Cambodia today is fraught with seemingly insurmountable problems.

Kari and I hope to hold a book signing here in the Comox Valley in June. Stay tuned for a heart wrenching story that will snatch away all of the comforts of home and situate you squarely into the perils of trying to do something useful in a country where corruption, abject poverty and demoralization are rampant. Check out Kari's website if you want more information or to order her book now <http://www.BonesThatFloat.com>

My last day in Cambodia

This adventure has set my mind on fire with the potential to do something very meaningful, simple and immediate. Cambodian friends, Kong and Sam, took me out for a day in the weaving province of Takao. This area is well over an hours drive on pretty dodgy roads from Phnom Penh. It is fairly poor, very rural, dusty and lovely in it's own way. We had lunch shaded from the harsh sun, under the stilted home of the people who dye silk and manage the weaving for Sam and Kong's production workshop. After a delicious meal of chicken dipped in lime, pepper and garlic

sauce, as well as a beef and ginger dish topped off with fresh coconut juice and palm fruits, we were taken to many of the weavers homes to see aspects of their production.

One woman, who was weaving on a totally dilapidated loom had been abandoned by her husband. She was desperately trying to support two children in a shack with plastic cement bag walls (see photo in page one.) We put our heads together and came up with a plan. For \$40 we could upgrade her loom. Sam and Kong could hire her to weave her beautiful high quality silks, providing her with a reliable source of income. All of this was arranged in moments.

For as little as \$500 an industrial iron could be bought that would save Sam and Kong's workers endless toil and backache. Small loans and donations could make a huge difference to small businesses that produce the most beautiful products under unbelievably harsh conditions. So stay tuned while I sort out how to keep my business running and start a fundraising campaign for making some of these small changes possible. If anyone has ideas or wants to help please give me a call or send me an email.

I can't even begin to list all of the new bags, wraps, jewelry and other silk treasures that have been added to the Floating Stone collection. You will just have to come and see for yourself.



Here we are choosing the spring colour palette for the three layered O'Keefe scarves. The choices are so hard to make as the colour selection is endless, limited only by the imagination.

This trip went along way toward deepening my understanding of what is possible, both in terms of bringing you the most desirable, lovely silk products (and some cottons too) as well as contributing to sustainability in Cambodia.

Looking forward to showing you all of the new colours and shapes that we are using for this season's collection.

Warm wishes,
Lynda