Jean-Pierre Rossie

Workshops in Argentina inspired by Moroccan games and toys:
   a photographic overview

The Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales of Buenos Aires, Programa de Educación Inicial y Primera Infancia, invited me to participate in the international seminar “Infancias, Juegos y Juguetes”, (Argentina, October 20-22, 2010). After this event I was invited by the Instituto de Formacion Docentes de Bariloche (province Rio Negro) to participate in the training of their students and to organize a workshop (26-29.10.2010). After viewing a PowerPoint with images of Moroccan adolescents and boys making masks for the Imashar feast in Tiznit and its region, images of dolls and of other toys created by Moroccan children a workshop took place in which female and male children, students and teachers created masks and dolls with natural and waste material (photo 1).

Masks were made by boys as well as girls but seemingly more by boys than by girls. The following photos show masks made by boys (photos 2-6).
The boys and girls show a lot of creativity in using the available natural and waste material but also in designing their masks.
Some Barriloche girls and female students also made masks with the same material (photos 7-9).
But the girls seem to prefer creating dolls (photos 10-12).
Stela Maris Ferrarese Capettini, a teacher of physical education with a longstanding research on the play and toy cultures of the original Indian populations of South America (www.juegosetnicos.com), invited me to stay in her home in the city of Neuquén (province of Neuquén) and organized several conferences and workshops in different institutions of this city (1-14.11.2010). One of these institutions is the *Universidad Católica de Salta, sede Neuquén*. After giving a conference, some students of the teacher training programs engaged in a creativity workshop as showed in the next two images taken with a video camera (photos 13-14, 5.11.2010).
In Neuquén at the primary school n° 1 “Ciudad de Buenos Aires” three workshops took place with the pupils of the first and fourth grade (9-11.11.2010). They created masks, dolls and a few other toys like cars and robots. The children of the first grade got help of their mothers and fathers (photos 15-25). As in Barriloche the participants viewed a PowerPoint of Moroccan children’s creativity with natural and waste material. These PowerPoint’s are available on www.sanatoypal.org - multimedia: 2010.
A last workshop has been organized by the Secretaria de la Niñez y Adolescencia de la Secretaria de Derechos Humanos of the city of Neuquén at the Centro de Formación Professional in the Barrio Rural “Nueva Esperanza” at about 20 km from Neuquén (12.11.2010). In that workshop about 25 boys and girls, mothers and female animators participated. The following five photos taken with a video camera offer a glimpse of this workshop (photos 26-30).
I don’t give such workshops only to stimulate the creativity of children and adults living in consumption and high tech societies who are more or less submerged by toys and games of the toy and entertainment industries. The main goal is to offer them at the same time a more positive view of children and their communities in rural areas and popular quarters of towns in developing countries like Morocco. This way hoping to correct the negative information about for example Africa transmitted by the news media, as if the only reality there is one of hunger, disasters and war.

The photos 13, 14, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 were made by Stela Maris Ferrarese Capettini. The other photos were made by Jean-Pierre Rossie.