

Paola Gianturco Biography



Photo Courtesy CCTV America

Paola Gianturco is an author/photographer who has documented women's lives in 63 countries and had seven books published.

Women's Issues

Her involvement with women's issues is long standing. She has lectured about them in the US, Canada, France, United Arab Emirates, and Spain. She spoke at UNESCO International Headquarters in Paris on International Women's Day 2008; her photographs were exhibited there in 2009 and 2011. Paola co-developed and taught Executive Institutes on Women and Leadership at Stanford University, and served on the Board of the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID). She was a principal in the first women-owned advertising agency and is a current member of International Women's Forum. Paola presented a [TED TALK](#) in 2014 in Dubai. In 2013, Paola was named one of "40 Women to Watch over 40" — and in 2014, she was named one of "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" by Women's eNews. In 2017 the YWCA inducted her into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame.

Books

Paola's seventh book, **COOL: Women Leaders Reversing Global Warming** (www.COOLReversingGlobalWarming.com), created with her granddaughter/co-author, then-12-

year-old Avery Sangster, was released in September 2022. It features the inspiring stories of 27 women climate leaders in 10 countries and their suggestions for actions readers can take to help stop the climate crisis.

Paola's sixth book, **Wonder Girls: Changing Our World** (www.WonderGirlsBook.com) was created with her then-eleven-year-old granddaughter co-author, Alex Sangster, and released in October 2017. It is the first book to document the work of groups of activist girls around the world. All 15 groups include girls age 10 to 18, tackling diverse issues in 13 countries. The book has won literary awards in categories as diverse as Women's Studies, Multicultural Nonfiction and, most recently, a Gold in the Social Justice category of the Nautilus Book Awards.

Her fifth book, **Grandmother Power, A Global Phenomenon** (powerHouse Books, 2012), documents a new, unheralded international women's movement. Grandmother Power features 120 activist grandmothers in 17 grandmother groups in 15 countries on five continents who are fighting courageously and effectively—against poverty, disease, illiteracy, and human rights abuse—to create a better world for grandchildren everywhere. *Grandmother Power* has won the 2013 Living Now Book Award's Gold medal -- Social Action category; Foreword Reviews' 2012 Book of the Year Gold Award -- Women's Studies category; 2013 About.com Readers' Choice Award for Favorite Grandparenting Book; and the 2013 International Book Award for Multicultural Nonfiction.

Women Who Light the Dark was released in 2007. It features women in 15 countries who are helping each other with the intractable problems that make life dark for families everywhere.

Paola's third book, **¡Viva Colores! A Salute to the Indomitable People of Guatemala** was published in September 2006; its bi-lingual, English/Spanish text was written by David Hill.

Her second book, **Celebrating Women** (2004) features festivals in 15 countries that celebrate women's accomplishments, attributes, roles, rites of passage, and spiritual lives. The first exhibit ever curated by the International Museum of Women (San Francisco) was *Celebrating Women*. A travelling exhibit was mounted by the Field Museum in Chicago, where 195,000 visitors saw it during seven months in 2008. UNESCO exhibited *Celebrating Women* in March 2009 at its world headquarters in Paris. The show travelled to six U.S. venues in 2010 and 2011.

Paola conceived and, collaborating with Toby Tuttle, was co-author/photographer of **In Her Hands, Craftswomen Changing the World**, (hardcover, 2000; paperback, 2004). This book features women artisans in 12 countries, all sending their children to school with the money they earn from selling their handicrafts. Photographs from this book have been exhibited at The United Nations in New York; The United States Senate, Washington DC; The Smithsonian Museum Folklife Festival, Washington DC and The Field Museum, Chicago.

Media Coverage

Paola has been a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show, NPR, and CNN. Her photographs have been published by *Harpers Bazaar*-Australia, *Marie Claire* (US, Taiwan and Greek editions), *The Washington Post*, *The San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner*, *The Denver Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, plus many Internet sites, podcasts and blogs.

Solo Exhibits

Technical University, Munich, Germany, Wonder Girls, October 23-November 8, 2019
Mill Valley Arts Commission, Mill Valley, California, Wonder Girls Changing Our World, October 1-31, 2019
Center for Contemporary Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Wonder Girls: Changing Our World, January 15-February 4, 2018
World Affairs Council, San Francisco, CA, Wonder Girls: Changing Our World, September 1-December 15, 2017
Muhammad Ali Center, Louisville, Kentucky, Grandmother Power, August 19, 2017-January 8, 2018
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin, IL, Grandmother Power, February 14-April 30, 2017
Dennos Museum, Traverse City, MI, Grandmother Power, September 18-January 31, 2017
Mount Mary University, Milwaukee WI, Grandmother Power, July 28- September 13, 2014
Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, MI, Grandmother Power, September 6, 2013-February 2, 2014
Field Museum, Chicago IL, In Her Hands, May 18, 2001-January 13, 2002
Field Museum, Chicago IL, Celebrating Women, March 1-September 7, 2008
International Museum of Women, San Francisco CA, Celebrating Women, October-December 2004
San Jose Museum of Art, San Francisco CA, In Her Hands, August 4-22, 2004
UNESCO, Paris, Miro Rooms 1 and 2, Celebrating Women, March 2009
Smithsonian Folklife Festival, South African Pavilion photomurals, Washington DC, June 23-July 4, 1999
United States Senate Russell Rotunda, Washington DC, In Her Hands, October 2002
Center for International Women's Leadership, Notre Dame IN, In Her Hands, February 8-September 30, 2002
University of New England Art Gallery, Portland MA, Celebrating Women, March 8-May 20, 2010
Dennos Museum, Traverse City MI, Celebrating Women, September 19, 2010-January 2, 2011
Center for International Women's Leadership, Notre Dame IN, Celebrating Women, October 2, 2008-January 15, 2009
Tarbel Art Center, Charleston IL, Celebrating Women, January, 2011
Leedy-Volkos Gallery, Kansas City, MO, Celebrating Women, March/April 2011
Dominican University Library, San Rafael, CA, Celebrating Women, May 25-June 30, 2011
505 Sansome Gallery, San Francisco CA, In Her Hands, February 9-27, 2004
Art Works, Chestertown, MD, In Her Hands, March, 2009
Bryan Art Gallery, Conway SC, In Her Hands, September 11-October 17, 2008

Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose, CA, In Her Hands, June 1-July 31, 2005

Group Exhibits

United Nations, General Assembly Lobby, New York, Progress of the World's Women,
June 5-July 6, 2001

UNESCO, Headquarters, Paris: Women at Work, Women's Lives, March 2011

Petaluma Historical Society, Women and the Search for Wisdom, March 2018

Permanent Collections

Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco CA (40 images)

Truman Medical Center, Kansas City MO (40 Celebrating Women images)

Carole Ann Reed Breast Health Center, Oakland CA (20 In Her Hands images)

First Career

Prior to 1996, Paola spent 34 years in communications: 7 in retailing and public relations; 14 as a principal at Hall & Levine Advertising, the first women-owned advertising agency; 9 as Executive Vice President of Saatchi & Saatchi's Corporate Communications Group; 4 as President of The Gianturco Company, a communications consultancy.

Activities

In addition to her involvement with women's issues (listed above), Paola is a member of the Advisory Boards of two nonprofits: [The WISE Fund](#) (Women Invested to Save Earth), and [Rise Up Together](#). Previously, she was Board Chair of The Crafts Center, which worked with low-income artisans in 79 countries. She also served on the Board of the travel company, [International Nature and Cultural Adventures](#).