

# Ontario author publishes wordless book to avoid limits of language

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Mark Zelinski, a Canadian author and photographer with his books at Chapters in Vancouver on Saturday, October 01, 2011. He is currently distributing 6,000 copies of his three photography books free to children around the world; one of them, called "Untitled," has no words in it at all, just photographs of different people from his travels around the world.

**Photograph by:** Les Bazso, The Province

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It is often said a picture is worth 1,000 words.

That seems to be the case with Mark Zelinski's latest book.

In Vancouver on Saturday on a combination book tour and charity drive, Zelinski talked about his recent publication, which is full of pictures - and absolutely no words.

Even the cover, which features two men from Nepal looking off with the Himalayas in the background, has no words, title, or photo credit.

Zelinski, 56, took the picture he chose for the cover in 2000 during a Buddhist festival. And after editing down all the images of his travels in the past 35 years, he chose the shot of the men from Nepal with the majestic mountains in the background over all the others he has taken.

"I think they were a little stoned," he said of the image. "It's like they are sitting on the edge of the world."

Zelinski in 2010 put together two other books besides his untitled book. They are: From the Field and One Small Flame.

In the last 35 years I have travelled to 75 countries and this is the culmination of all this travelling, he said of the images that went into the three books.

Despite his untitled book having no words, Zelinski said it is still very much a book.

It is a book, he maintains, it is registered with the national library of congress in Ottawa, he said. The only thing on it is an ISBN number.

The reason he decided to have the hardcover coffee-table type book full of pictures and no words is that I did not want it to be limited to language.

I think it works better with no language at all.

His untitled book is not for sale at bookstores but can be purchased online at Zelinski's website. He said the majority of the untitled books he produced, will be given to children who don't speak English and have little access to books. I did it for children where there is no Internet, no books no television, he said.

Zelinski plans on distributing 1,000 books to schools around B.C.

His untitled book will go overseas, to Cambodia, Thailand, India and Southern Africa.

The book is also going to agencies that help free young women from the brothels. It is intended to be given away, he said of the untitled book. It is going to be a gift to children from the slave market, he said of the book with no words.

We've experienced many societies that lack the basics that we take for granted and children are always the most vulnerable, said Zelinski. I think we need to see the human race as a family and it's exciting for me to use my photography books as a gift for children and a tool for charities to help people every day around the world.

So far Zelinski, who is based in Hamilton, Ont., has distributed 2,000 books to charities across Canada and the world. In B.C., Zelinski will get the books to the Canadian Red Cross Western zone, SOS Children's Village B.C. Free the Children and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Zelinski on Sunday will be at the Pinetree Village Chapters in Coquitlam from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

His website is: [www.markzelinski.com](http://www.markzelinski.com)

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