## Freetheme - India

Mahatma Ghandi's once said; 'India lives in her 700,000 villages', meaning that the future for India lies within the development of these rural areas. It was this quote that inspired these series of images. During my latest trip to India, as we drove back to the city of Bangalore, we came across a small village, unmarked on our maps. In this rural area - a series of captivating photographs were taken. The architecture, the people and their lifestyle influenced this project. It is rare to come across a society completely untethered from modern technology – a neighbourhood so simple and quaint, reminiscent of previous generations. Made up of single-roomed mud huts, buffaloes and a few shallow wells, this village is home to a hardworking, labouring community of farmers. It was clear that many of its inhabitants faced the daily struggles of attaining fresh water, basic sanitation and receiving little to no electricity, but the images capture an alternative meaning to 'India lives her 700,000 villages'. It highlights the raw beauty of India, its simple architecture using natural material, its beautiful landscapes which reflect the simple, honest labourers which make this country, and this village, so awe-inspiring.

I am British expatriate living in Saudi Arabia. I studied Architecture in Glasgow, Scotland which has enhanced my appreciation for finding beauty in life's simple pleasures. Coupled with my fondness of photography; I believe I have a third eye when taking and capturing photographs. For as long as I can remember; pictures and images are the way in which I tell my stories. Life has taken me down paths that I never thought I would discover, but I am grateful for every turn as it has made me into the photographer I am today.