

## GLOBAL VOICES

*TEDxVailWomen conference brings paradigm-altering perspectives from international artists and local nonprofits.*

*By Laura Lieff.*

For the fourth year in a row, TEDx-VailWomen returns to the Vail Valley Dec. 5 with a lineup of accomplished women who will speak to this year's theme: "Naturally."

Combining live speakers with live video stream from the San Francisco TEDWomen event, the all-day conference will include live music, interactive sessions, networking, snacks, lunch and post-party tapas.

"TedxVailWomen will bring together an eclectic roster of women from various walks of life, which is important to me as I think the female voice is representative of creativity, intuition and the earth," says featured speaker Asher Jay. "I am grateful to be a part of this unique sisterhood of informed minds and insightful souls."

An independently organized TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) event, TEDxVailWomen will highlight presentations by global leaders designed to share ideas and inspire people to move into action to make a difference in their community.

"This year's program will deliver groundbreaking ideas presented in bite-sized, beautifully delivered TEDx talks," says Vail resident and event organizer Kat Haber. "The conversation of technology, entertainment and design driven by women leaders is a rare opportunity to engage with some powerhouse women who are

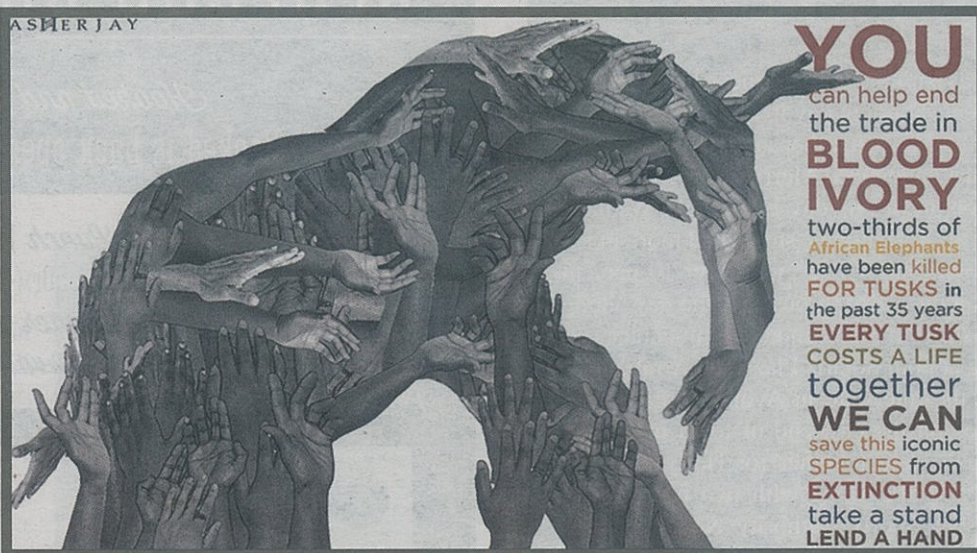
driving progress. From small, local solutions to global movements, the power of women's invention is moving creativity in every region, in every field."

### The talent

Vail native and founder of Walking Mountains Science School Dr. Kim Langmaid will speak during a session called "Naturally Inspired," along with Conservation Photographers creator Cristina Mittermeier. Other speakers include engineer Krista Donaldson, social entrepreneur Jane Chen, speech scientist Rupal Patel, poet Sarah Kay, journalist and swimmer Diana Nyad and Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, among many others.

Asher Jay, who is an artist, designer, speaker, activist, writer and conservationist, will discuss the themes of love and loss through visuals and personal narrative. Through her extensive travels across the globe and her studies in art history, Asher has developed an aesthetic of contrasting cultural influences.

"My talk is titled 'By Design' and casts a light on why I respond to global concerns from a design perspec-



Above and opposite page: Posters from artist Asher Jay as part of her recent work on an anti-poaching campaign.  
Images: Asher Jay.

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tive," says Asher. "The way I see it, all the prevalent problems of our time are a result of flawed design. What better way to address issues emerging from and orbiting bad design than by design."

The event also includes speakers and performers from cities all over the world including London, Chicago, New York, San Diego, Los Angeles, Boulder and Victoria, British Columbia.

Their topics range from saving elephants in the midst of a Jihadi civil war in Mali to changing the world through nature photography. Other guests include 10-year-old Carnegie Hall master pianist Ursula Hardianto and young women from Stone Creek Middle School. Streamed speakers will address technology innovations, solutions to poverty, approaches to peace-making and expressions of art.


"People should attend this event because it coalesces as a wonderful choir of honest, expressive female identities that have set themselves apart by pursuing their respective inner callings," says Asher. "I am most looking forward to opening up the dialogue of my life to countless others and evoking a symbiotic exchange of inspiration, love

and solutions."

#### Worldwide significance

Asher's most recent undertaking was an art installation called "Message in a Bottle" that is presently on display at the SAG Harbor Whaling Museum and was at the American Museum of Natural History's Milstein Hall in April 2013. She has just finished working on a series of works for Wild Aid China which will be released as magazine ads, billboards and posters in Shanghai. Asher also worked on a billboard in New York City's Times Square, which opened on Sept. 29 – in time for the Elephant Marches across the world.

A nonprofit organization that started as a four-day conference in California almost 30 years ago, TED has grown to support world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak on a diverse mix of topics. Over the years TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gil-

bert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. 

*SneakPEAK* writer *Laura Lieff* can be reached at [info@sneakpeakvail.com](mailto:info@sneakpeakvail.com)

### IF YOU GO

**WHEN:** Thursday, Dec. 5 from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Edwards Interfaith Chapel, Edwards

**COST:** \$65 in advance, \$80 at the door (if available)

For more information or to purchase tickets, see

**TEDxVailWomen.com** or call 970.367.7718. This event sold out last year, so early registration is encouraged.



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