

ARTWORKS + RESEARCH

# Inspired by northern Kenya

## TRANSFORMING CONFLICT

Research took me to Maralal in Kenya. Samburu, Pokot and Turkana tribes have lived for years with their cows and goats in this difficult area where the plateau drops thousands of feet into the Rift Valley. From 2003-4, drought and guns coming in from Sudan and Somalia brought new levels of tension and violence between tribes:

*when we started this war  
we started something that we never knew  
and that we have never seen*

*in that war  
so many friends  
so many young people  
died*

Out there in this harsh, beautiful landscape, are the peace makers: changing minds, changing lives. My contribution is my research and my artworks.



ARTWORKS +  
RESEARCH

[www.lynnecameron.com](http://www.lynnecameron.com)

[www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/livingwithuncertainty/](http://www.open.ac.uk/researchprojects/livingwithuncertainty/)

because it is so far away ...

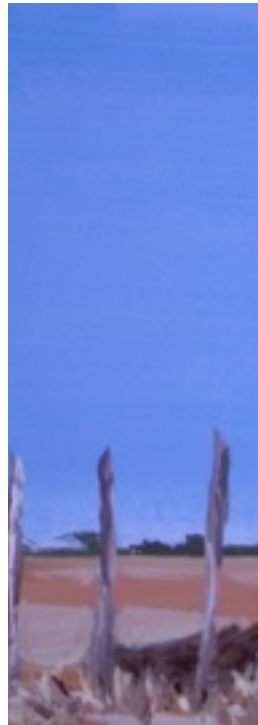
you can't imagine ...

you can't begin to imagine

(woman in London)

## The closest concern

Everywhere -- England, America, Brazil, and Kenya -- everyone we listened to in the research project told of their fears for family when violence threatens.



### FAMILY MATTERS

The women and children stood and sat behind us as we interviewed the young men about stopping the killing and turning to peace. Sitting in the shade of the tree where the goats sat, on the spiky grass. Fences keep the animals in at night, or protect crops. Digging land to plant crops is a sign of conflict easing - it tells that people have stopped running away

I thought they lived here, but it was more temporary. This family had come back to their place only three weeks ago, the first to come back from the camp where the community had fled for safety in the time of violence. In UK and USA, we heard people retreating to their place of safety in their words and their attitudes. Here in Kenya they physically retreated to safety, in a camp.

I could only imagine how it was to live there, in a camp.

because the work of peace is the hardest work to do

(Tobiko, leader of the young men)

