

****For Immediate Release****

Attention: Assignment Editors, News Desk, Feature Reporters, Producers

EYES of DEAFNESS: photography by 20 deaf and hard of hearing adults

A participatory photography project involving the deaf and hard of hearing community using disposable cameras to express themselves.

Blair Wells and The Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Inc. (GLAD) have collaborated to create a one-of-a-kind photography exhibit at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena. This project brought together a diverse group of deaf and hard of hearing adults (ages 30 to 65) who had little or no photography experience but were curious. What piqued their interest was the opportunity to express themselves in a way they had not yet explored. By utilizing the disposable camera instead of a digital or SLR camera, this allowed the participants to explore their environment deeper without thinking about the camera. The intent of the project was to allow each person to freely express themselves with film.

"Sometimes I wish hearing people could sit in my body for awhile so they could understand my experience. Maybe in a small way they can by looking at these pictures." Jennifer Stuessy, participant.

To allow for the creative process to grow, we had monthly meetings at GLAD to review the photos and then, sent everyone out with more cameras. Over the course of 18 months, we accumulated over 1200 images. We pooled together and edited down the images to create an exhibition (44 photographs) and accompanying book that will be for sale. Proceeds from the sales will go toward Interpreting Services for alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs for deaf and hard of hearing individuals.

EYES of DEAFNESS has created an experience for this deaf community to express themselves in a unique manner and to have an interaction with the art community around them.

What: Photography Exhibition *EYES OF DEAFNESS: photography by 20 deaf & hard of hearing adults*

Where: Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena
145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena 626 . 792 . 5101 www.armoryarts.org

When: *Artists Reception:* Saturday, February 20 2 – 4 pm
Exhibition: February 20 -- March 14, 2010

Contacts: Blair Wells blair-wells@hotmail.com 323 . 683 . 9098	Rachel Braver rbraver@gladinc.org 323 . 550 . 4274	Jay Belloli jbelloli@armoryarts.org 626 . 792 . 5101
--	---	---