

News Release

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384 Forest Ave., Gallery 13, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

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“uncertainty”

Art and Inspiration in Commemoration of World AIDS Day

November 15 – December 8, 2008

Laguna Beach Calif., November 15, 2008 — **Endangered Planet Gallery and Foundation** invites the public to a fun event for a serious subject. For the first time at the gallery, guest speakers, musicians and artists will join in raising awareness for the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Art has always held an integral role in the campaign against AIDS, from memory books and AIDS quilts to the esteemed UNAIDS' ART for AIDS collection. In 1989, a group of arts professionals known as Visual AIDS proclaimed December 1 World AIDS Day in memory of the many artists lost to AIDS. The primary goal of the group was to increase public awareness of the effects of AIDS on the art world and society at large. In 1997, parentheses were added to the program title and December 1st became known as A Day With(out) Art.

One of the artworks on display will be a fresco by noted Laguna Beach artist, Gary Simpson. Incorporating statistics on those afflicted worldwide with AIDS, Simpson created a graph-style formula to use in the piece. Countries are listed alphabetically and copper wire is applied to represent the magnitude of the population affected, resulting in quite literally an off-the-chart dimension. The large, mixed-media fresco was created for the artist's Disparity Series, a study on integral aspects of life in most countries today. Simpson felt compelled to begin his earth-focused Common Ground project and fresco panel series in light of world events following the attacks of 9/11. The artist recently created a painting depicting per person, per day crude oil consumption in UN member states. (Recently unveiled at the One Earth | One Dream Autumnal Green Festival in Laguna Beach.)

Photographer Tish Lampert will present images from her recent journey to Congo, Rwanda

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and Burundi where she visited numerous AIDS centers set up in community marketplaces. Lampert remarked on how many in the region could turn suffering into an opportunity to spread joy and unity, "Impromptu AIDS rallies occur frequently on roadsides in these war ravaged countries. When we happened upon one I was inspired and changed by the courage of so many who are inflicted with this disease but have not given up hope."

Other artists displaying works include Fiona Potter, Philip Womack, Pernille Damgaard, Brian Sadler, Bill Atkins, Janet Groenert and Rik Lawrence. K.R. Matthews who recently participated in the Laguna College of Art and Design Florence and Rome Exhibition will be presenting her painting entitled "Uncertainty". Segments from the Art Miles Mural Project will be on display as well.

The thought-provoking exhibit of inspired artwork featured in conjunction with World AIDS Day, will be on display at the gallery November 15 – December 8, 2008. An artist reception will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Along with a silent auction to raise funds for a permanent memorial sculpture, duplicate segments of The Aids Memorial Quilt will be on view. Speaking at the reception will be Adele Sender, director of medical operations for Disease Management Services, plc (DMS). Sender is involved in developing algorithms and training healthcare professionals and will highlight DMS' comprehensive management system for people living with HIV/AIDS in resource poor areas. The program is currently deployed in facilities in South Africa, monitoring more than 10,000 patients on antiretroviral therapy. Sender, a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, resides in Laguna Beach. Also speaking at the reception will be City of Laguna Beach Mayor Jane Egly and HIV Advisory Committee Chair, Scott Alan. Music and poetry by Kistofor Szasz, poet laureate for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-affiliated Art Miles Mural Project, will round out the evening.

Endangered Planet is located at 384 Forest Avenue, Gallery 13 in Laguna Beach. For further details, membership or volunteer opportunities please visit www.EndangeredPlanet.org or telephone (949) 497-5690.

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Written by: Denise Morrison

Artwork by:

- 1 - K. R. Matthews "uncertainty" - (student of Laguna College of Art and Design)
- 2 - Thierry Bys "Connected?" - Photographe de mode a paris,photographe de beauté a paris



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