

Thank you!

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If you are interested in furthering the work of this program for youth in crisis, contact Jennifer Mervyn. jennifer.mervyn@fraserhealth.ca

The Surrey Art Gallery
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Urban Reality

Otenaw Pimachihowin Tawe Ispayiw

Two youth photo-therapy projects



Snapshots
of Street
Life

"Never turn your back on me"



The
Millennium
Project

Taking photos in Surrey

At the Surrey Art Gallery
April 20 – August 27, 2006

Urban Reality // Otenaw Pimachihowin Tawe Ispayiw* Two youth photo-therapy projects

Art opens the closets, airs out the cellars and attics. It brings healing.
Julia Cameron, from her book *The Artist's Way*

Art is our one true global language. It knows no nation, it favors no race, and it acknowledges no class. It speaks to our need to reveal, heal, and transform. It transcends our ordinary lives and lets us imagine what is possible.
Richard Kamler, artist and creator of the *Seeing Peace Project*

Art is a powerful force. Through artworks, we can see the world in new ways, examine our past and imagine our future. Art communicates ideas, experiences and emotions between people. Art also has the power to heal, as it enables people to be heard. Its gifts include asking questions and sharing understanding.

For the past year, North Surrey has been the home of a program that uses photography to help youth in crisis engage with the world in a constructive way. This program, offered through the Adolescent Crisis Response Program and Fraser Health with the support of many partners, provides skilled therapists, and resources for referred youth to learn positive skills, and express themselves through art. The Surrey Art Gallery is pleased to present documentation about this program, and exhibit the photos created by these emerging young artists.

Snapshots of Street Life, was a health and wellness focused project in 2005, involving 17 Surrey youth, over the course of eleven weeks. Youth were provided with cameras and coached in the basics of photography. After group discussions participants completed assignments to create images that reflect mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and cultural health, as well as images addressing strategies to cope with stress, healthy relationships, healthy sexuality, positive communication and self-care. Each image is a poignant, metaphoric response to life's challenges. This project received international attention for both the quality of the photography produced by the participating street youth, as well as the positive impact it had on their lives.

The *Millennium Project*, which is underway now, involving youth from Surrey and the Greater Vancouver region. This project challenges its nineteen participants to create photographs that respond to the United Nation's eight Millennium Goals addressing poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy and other issues. When the project is complete, eight selected photos will be enlarged into banners and hung at the site of the World Urban Forum in Vancouver, and a set of card sized photographs will

be included in the delegate packages for the thousands of people attending, from all over the world.

The selected *Millennium Project* photographs will also be exhibited here, at the Surrey Art Gallery from June throughout the summer.

- Liane Davison, Curator, Surrey Art Gallery



"A step in the right direction."

Want to be involved?

Invitation to youth:

- Attend the screening of *Metamorphosis* here at the Surrey Arts Centre on **May 5th** at 6pm and learn more about street youth
- See the whole series of photos from the Millennium Project at the Surrey Art Gallery (Studio theatre), **May 29** from noon until 9pm and vote for the images to be used for the World Urban Forum.
- Visit the Drop-In Art Studio at the Tom Binney Park Youth Centre in Whalley, on Mondays from 3-9pm (for at-risk youth) or Thursdays from 5-8pm (for mainstream youth)
- Register and attend the World Urban Forum – they need youth voices!
- Check out the BC Youth in Care Network
<http://modena.intergate.ca/fbcyicn/maframe.html>

Invitation to Parents, Teachers and others who care about youth:

- Attend the screening of *Metamorphosis* at the Surrey Arts Centre on **May 5th** at 6pm and learn more about street youth
- See the whole series of photos from the Millennium Project at the Surrey Art Gallery (Studio theatre), **May 29** from noon until 9pm and vote for the images to be used for the World Urban Forum.
- Advocate for services for street-involved and at risk youth in Surrey

*Translation into Cree-Michif - acknowledging aboriginal representation in the groups