

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

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CONTACT: Myken Lint,

Public Relations Coordinator 614.225.0980

ext. 1206 or lintm@southeastinc.com

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery presents

Through A Different Lens

Special showing one week only: September 11, 2006 – September 15, 2006

at the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

Columbus, Ohio – Fresh A.I.R. (Artists in Recovery) Gallery will feature *Through a Different Lens*, a photographic exploration of the daily lives of seven women who have overcome homelessness and are learning to live with mental illness and addiction. The thoughtful, honest images provide a glimpse beyond the mundane and into the complex realities of the photographers' lives.

The images in *Through a Different Lens* were created as part of a seven-week photography workshop that asked women to explore and share the details of their lives. Participants received cameras and learned the mechanics of loading film, taking a picture, and advancing the film to prepare for the next shot. The women learned to identify and photograph stories of life around them. They investigated the complexities of self-identity by shooting self-portraits that portray the many selves they present to the world. During the course of the workshop, the participants shot dozens of rolls of film and printed hundreds of images. The final step was selecting the images they wished to represent their work for the exhibit at Fresh A.I.R. Gallery.

Two Ohio State University students led the photography workshop. Rachael Thompson and Heather Skidmore. Rachael Thompson is currently a senior enrolled in the BFA Photography program at OSU and has extensive background in photography both in a formal educational setting and a commercial setting. Heather Skidmore is a junior at OSU and will graduate with a Bachelors of Arts in History of Art and has experience working in art and public relations.

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P. 2 Fresh A.I.R. Gallery

Artists Reception is Wednesday September 13 from 1:30-3:30 pm in the Fresh A.I.R. Gallery. The reception is free and open to the public. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is located at 131 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, (614) 744-8110. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday 8:00am – 5:30pm.

Generous funding for this project made possible by the Greater Columbus Arts Council Franklin County Neighborhood Arts Program and the Puffin Foundation.

Fresh A.I.R. Gallery exhibits the works of individuals affected with mental illness and those with substance abuse disorders. Through art, we work to break down the stigma of mental illness by bringing focus to the artistic vision. Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is operated by Southeast Inc. The Fresh A.I.R. Gallery is made possible through generous support from The Columbus Foundation. Southeast Inc. is a comprehensive mental health, chemical dependency, and healthcare organization that has been serving Columbus and Franklin County since 1978. Southeast, Inc.'s mission is to serve diverse populations regardless of their economic status. With the belief that all people have the capacity to grow and change, Southeast provides services to people of all ages, cultures, races, religious preferences, genders and sexual orientations in order to enhance wellness and recovery, thereby improving families, workplaces and communities. Southeast, Inc. serves people who are most in need and require different levels of intensity of services. Southeast, Inc. is also accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) that focuses on commitment to continuous quality improvement. Southeast, Inc. is located at 16 West Long Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 225-0980 * TTY (614) 225-0986 * Fax (614) 225-0986 or visit www.southeastinc.com.



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