

Opera Circus

Press Release:

FACE TO FACE

"If you look at these photographs you will understand Vietnam"

An exhibition of 90 photographs taken by 16 disabled young people from rural and urban areas of Thanh Hoa province in north central Vietnam.

27 JANUARY - 27 FEBRUARY 2010

FACE TO FACE is exhibited in two parts

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Lighthouse

Poole Centre for the Arts

Monday - Saturday 10am - 9pm

A: 21 Kingland Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1UG

T: 0844 406 8666

E: info@lighthousepoole.co.uk

W: lighthousepoole.co.uk

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Holton Lee

Faith House

Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm

Holton Lee's arts programme emphasises Disability Arts and innovative arts practice

A: Holton Lee, East Holton, Holton Heath, Poole, Dorset BH16 6JN

T: 01202 625562

E: admin@holtonlee.co.uk

W: www.holtonlee.co.uk

NB: FACE TO FACE was originally arranged to be shown at
KUBE - formerly THE STUDY GALLERY OF MODERN ART, POOLE - sadly now closed

The photographs in Face To Face were taken as part of a one year project, funded by DED German Development Service and the Schmitz Foundation, and designed and facilitated by Paul Zetter of ensemble creative training and development based in Hanoi. The project aimed to improve the communication skills, confidence and self esteem of the participants who are all members of disability support groups in Thanh Hoa. The photographs they took are moving and beautiful and represent a very personal and honest shared expression of what it means to be disabled in Vietnam today. The exhibition, originally curated by Jamie Maxtone-Graham, is being curated in Dorset by Jem Main, now Director of Dorset Visual Arts. The exhibition is being shared between Holton Lee and Lighthouse.

Still Life Moving

Colour/46mins/English subtitles

Director Paul Zetter

This documentary will be shown on 23rd February at 10.30am at the cinema of the Lighthouse. Paul Zetter and Ngyuen Thi Huong will be present for a Q and A session afterwards. Refreshments available. If there is the demand we can arrange further screenings.

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/play/2223/Still-Life-Moving>

Synopsis: Before Huong, a young, disabled women from Vietnam, ever picked up a camera, her life was relatively still. But as she begins to take photos and collect stories from friends, family and neighbours as part of a community project, she reaches a new awareness of herself and her life. She starts to make decisions that move her life in many different directions with both positive and negative consequences. Finally she goes to a public exhibition that includes her photos, in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi.

I No Longer Feel Inferior

Nguyen Thi Huong – Tailor/Face To Face Photographer

"Involvement in this 'photovoice' project has dramatically changed me. I am more confident and delighted as the camera helps me to understand what life really is. I am happy and no longer feel inferior about myself and with my fate. The camera has helped others around me to get to know me better

For booking information contact Hannah Baker at DepArture Arts on

H.L.Baker@dorsetcc.gov.uk

For more information on the exhibition and photographs please visit

www.flickr.com/photos/facetofacevietnam

The exhibition then moves to Northern Stage, Newcastle from March 1st

With thanks for support to Awards for All Big Lottery Fund, Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts, Holton Lee, DepArture Arts, Borough of Poole Council, Northern Stage, ensemble creative training and development, The British Embassy Hanoi and British Council, Vietnam.

For further information please call Tina Ellen Lee on 07785774 909 or email on tina@operacircus.co.uk in the UK or Paul Zetter paulzetter@gmail.com on 0903417270 in Vietnam

www.operacircus.co.uk

18 January 2010