



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Contact Information: Kirsten Ervin, Gallery Curator, Everyone an Artist Gallery
4128 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: 412-621-2951
Email: kervin@milestonecentersinc.org
URL: www.milestonecentersinc.org

WARMTH: AN IMMERSION OF POETRY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening Reception: Friday, February 12, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Afternoon Reception: Friday, February 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

**Everyone an Artist Gallery, Lawrenceville
Pittsburgh's only gallery dedicated to artists with disabilities**

We are surrounded by text and photographs every day: billboards, signs, newspapers, magazines. Merging these two powerful tools of communication help us understand a variety of subjects and point us in directions we may not have seen. It seems fitting to combine the Poetry and Photography group at Milestone Day Treatment and Deaf Services in Wilksburg to express their musings... they too are affected daily by a bombardment of text and photographs.

The Poetry group stimulates their creativity by engaging in relaxation techniques. This allows the poets to freely express their imagination and feelings. Some may draw a scene first and then put words to it later. Others express themselves completely in words alone. "Being in this group makes me want to write words and sentences. It has given me so much confidence and makes me feel so good about myself," as one poet has stated.

The Photography group has outdoor walks every few weeks to stimulate their creativity. These strolls allow the photographers to stop, take time to truly see their environment and photograph it. Inspired by the intricacy of tree branches or colors forming shapes and patterns, each photograph that comes back from the photo lab is as unique as the person who captured the image. "If you try to tell someone about something it might be hard for them to understand. But take a picture of it and show them and it's easier to understand," as one of the photographers answered when asked to describe his process of using the camera.

Merging poetry and photography—though a simple thought at first—offers a more detailed mix of creative ideas; like looking inside an aquarium with all of its colorful fish inhabiting an enchanted world of flowing green leaves and delicate flower structures. We view this world from the outside, a piece of glass separating us. In this exhibition we've torn down that glass barrier and the immersion of words and pictures collide.

###