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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **First Gallery Featuring Work by Young Artists Opens in Venice with *Greatest Hits: 15 Years of Outstanding Photography by Young Artists***

**WHAT:** *Greatest Hits: 15 Years of Outstanding Photography by Young Artists* is the opening exhibit at an innovative new gallery run by the nonprofit Venice Arts: In Neighborhoods (Venice Arts). It is the first professional gallery of its kind in the area that features innovative work by young and emerging artists.

The exhibit features black-and-white photos by local youth, Native American youth from several reservations, and homeless children from the Washington, D.C. area. Images include compelling portraits of rural townships, burning sugar cane, and AIDS orphans in South Africa; explorations of female identity by teenage girls from L.A., Detroit, and 2 southern towns; and recent portraits of the people and places on Venice's Lincoln Boulevard.

**WHO:** For nearly 11 years Venice Arts has been providing free, multidisciplinary art programs to youth, with documentary photography representing its core program. Documentary projects have included *The Girls Project*, conducted in four communities across America, and *Picturing Race*, documentation of the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, South Africa (2001), and race and identity in Los Angeles (2002). This summer, in collaboration with the City of West Hollywood, Venice Arts will launch *Russian Youth in a New Land* with Russian refugee youth, funded by the California Council for the Humanities.

Venice Arts' creative director, Pulitzer Prize nominated photographer Jim Hubbard, the founder of Shooting Back, leads Venice Arts' documentary programs. Jim developed his methods to empower disenfranchised youth with the ability to document and describe their world: with the camera they "shot back," as the experts of their lives, rather than the subjects of a professional's work. Photography from *Shooting Back* and *Venice Arts* has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and has been published in five books of photography. The pioneering nature of this work has been cited in a wide range of academic literature on documentary photography, visual sociology, and contemporary art, including, most recently, in the *Oxford History of Art: American Photography* (2004).

**WHEN:** Opens Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> with a public reception and opportunity to meet the young artists from 6pm to 8pm. Closes Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004.

**WHERE:** 1809 Lincoln Boulevard, Venice.

**CONTACT:** For interviews with the young artists, or for more information, please contact Jim Hubbard, Creative Director, Venice Arts' Gallery (310) 822-8533 or at Jim@venice-arts.org. For further information or work samples, please go to [www.venice-arts.org](http://www.venice-arts.org)

**PHOTOS:** Photos available as prints or high quality digital images.