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## Venice Arts Launches the Community Story Lab!

A New Media Arts Engagement Program for Low-Income Adults

LOS ANGELES, CA – (FEBRUARY 27, 2014)

This spring, Venice Arts launches a new, unique engagement program for low-income adults: The Community Story Lab! The program consists of free, participatory workshops where adults can explore their own creativity as they collaborate with and learn from professional artists, creating personal and community stories through photography, filmmaking, and multimedia. Programs are free of charge and all equipment and training is provided. The yearlong project will culminate with a high-profile exhibition at Venice Arts next year. The Community Story Lab project is supported by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation.

There are two main tracks for participation:

### **The Storyteller's Voice**

Award-winning documentary photographer Sara Terry has been selected to lead an in-depth documentary photography project exploring personal and community stories. This twelve-month workshop is designed for participants to discover and explore the power of their own voices as storytellers through documentary photography. Participants will create personal photo essays from their own lives and create monthly, collaborative essays with others relating to the theme of "community."

The documentary photography project launches with a four-week storytelling intensive each Sunday afternoon from 1–4pm in March 2014, followed by twice monthly workshops on the first Thursday & third Sunday each month, from April 2014–April 2015, with additional time for shooting and editing as needed.

### **Drop-In Story Lab**

Public practice artists Michelle Glass, Andrea Dominguez & Paige Tighe will lead monthly drop-in Labs where participants can learn a variety of media-based storytelling techniques and skills. These Labs are designed to

### **CONTACT:**

Elysa Voshell, Associate Director /  
Gallery & Public Programs Director  
310.392.0846  
elysa@venicearts.org

### **VENICE ARTS**

1702 Lincoln Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291

**www.venicearts.org**



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be responsive to the wants and needs of participants and will be held on the first Sunday afternoon each month, starting on April 6, 2014, through March 2015.

The goal of the Community Story Lab is to build a sister program to Venice Arts' long-running youth workshops targeting low-income families. Through the Community Story Lab, Venice Arts hopes to broaden the definition of creative communities and to share a range of community perspectives and stories created through active arts participation.

Individuals who are interested in getting involved can call 310.392.0846 or email [meg@venicearts.org](mailto:meg@venicearts.org) to learn more.



ABOVE:

©SARA TERRY, WALK HOME, SAHR AND NYUMAH, FORMER BEST FRIENDS WHO HADN'T SPOKEN FOR YEARS, ARE RE-UNITED AFTER A FAMBUL TOK CEREMONY. NYUMAH APOLOGIZED TO SAHR FOR KILLING HIS FATHER, WHICH REBELS FORCED HIM TO DO DURING THE EARLY YEARS OF THE 1991-2002 WAR. SAHR ACCEPTED NYUMAH'S APOLOGY IN FRONT OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY; NOW, RECONCILIATION CAN BEGIN.

PAIGE TIGHE & MICHELLE GLASS, LATON PROJECT  
INSTALL AT BARNSDALL ART CENTER

### **About the Artists**

Sara Terry is an award-winning documentary photographer whose work has been widely exhibited, at such venues as the United Nations, the Museum of Photography in Antwerp, and the Moving Walls exhibition at the Open Society Institute in New York, the SXSW Film Festival, and over 40 festivals around the world. Her photographs are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and in many private collections. She received a prestigious Alicia Patterson award and is a Guggenheim Fellow. She is also the founder and director of The Aftermath Project, a nonprofit grant program that helps photographers cover the aftermath of conflict.

Michelle Glass, Andrea Dominguez & Paige Tighe are media and public practice artists and graduates of Otis's MFA in Public Practice program.

### **About Venice Arts**

Venice Arts runs education and mentoring programs in documentary photography, filmmaking, and multimedia primarily targeting Los Angeles area low-income youth. Venice Arts also implements regional, statewide, and international projects with both adults and children; presents exhibitions, public programs, and workshops for adults centered around documentary photography and film at the Venice Arts Gallery; and consults on media arts, visual storytelling, and arts education with organizations and groups locally and internationally.

To find out more about Venice Arts, visit [www.venicearts.org](http://www.venicearts.org).



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