



THE GRODEN NETWORK

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GRODEN NETWORK HOLDS EXHIBIT OF CLIENT PHOTOGRAPHY AT RI FLOWER SHOW

Providence, RI – February 21, 2007 – The theme of this year’s Rhode Island Flower Show, “Artistic Impressions” provided a unique opportunity for clients at the Groden Network to display their talents to the greater community. “Nature: Through Our Eyes” is an exhibit of photography created by persons with autism that can be seen on the main floor of the RI Flower Show, February 22 – 25 at the RI Convention Center.

Autism is a difficult and complicated disability which often causes withdrawal from social interaction. Individuals at the Groden Network are learning to use art to express their unique view of the world. They capture light, objects, nature, geometric shapes and reflections with extraordinary talent; and the results create intrigue and appreciation of what they perceive as important and interesting in the environment.

The Groden Network provides opportunities for people with autism to experience the confidence, satisfaction, and pure joy of creating a piece of art. No matter the ability, all clients are able to express themselves through art in the Art Studio, located at the Cove Center in Providence.

While some of the clients may sometimes need assistance, they nevertheless chose their own subjects and compose their own photos. They look forward to their art experiences and are producing amazing work. The Groden Network staff has been pleasantly surprised by the beauty of the client photos, and the talent and perseverance they have demonstrated.

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Some of these photographs were taken as a part of the “My Own World” project series. These carefully designed photography lessons for students at the Groden Network are funded in part by a grant from the RI State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the RI General Assembly, and support from the Rhode Island Chapter of the Autism Society of America.

“My Own World” is aimed at fostering resilience by enabling our clients to express themselves, gain problem-solving skills and self-esteem through the creation and sharing of images. Eventually all clients will be involved in all levels of the project: shooting, printing, matting, exhibiting and selling.

Lessons also nurture communication and social skills such as cooperation and enthusiasm. The Groden Network believes that through participation in this project, their clients will acquire lifelong skills, and find a hobby they will enjoy for the rest of their lives.

“Nature: Through Our Eyes” serves as a valuable opportunity for the public to learn that these artists, regardless of their very real and difficult challenges, also have wonderful gifts to share with the rest of us.

To learn more about Groden Network’s research, treatment, educational and residential programs for children and adults with autism and other related developmental disabilities, visit the Groden Center website at www.grodencenter.org or call 401-274-6310.

The Groden Network is the leading non-profit organization in Rhode Island providing evaluative, therapeutic and educational programs for children and adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. Comprised of the Groden Center, the Cove Center, the Halcyon Center and Kingston Hill Academy, the Network provides services to over 800 clients. The Groden Center provides day, residential and vocational programs for children and adolescents with autism and related developmental disabilities. The Cove Center provides day, residential and vocational programs for adults with developmental disabilities. The Halcyon Center provides residential and vocational support programs for adults in Southeastern Massachusetts. Kingston Hill Academy, a public charter school, is dedicated to the Groden Network’s mission of individualized learning plans for all students.