

“Fine Line: Mental Health/Mental Illness” Exhibit

A documentary of voices, stories and portraits by Michael Nye



October 11, 2003 to January 11, 2004

Photographer Michael Nye's documentary voices, stories and portraits depict the experiences of those with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and agoraphobia.

Presenting 60 black-and-white portraits and audio stories of individuals touched by mental illness, this exhibit engages viewers and listeners with deeply compelling images and histories that personalize this complicated topic.

In simple and eloquent detail, these spoken narratives and images draw you closer into each life by addressing issues of family, confusion, alienation, pain, abuse, treatment and healing.

Michael Nye has had more than 25 one-person photography exhibits, including the Arthur Roger Gallery in New York City, the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and the Tampa Museum of Art. Nye's photography has taken him around the world recording images of men, women and children in Russian Siberia, Chiapas, Mexico, Iraq, China, Palestine and Labrador.

He is the recipient of a Mid-America National Endowment for the Arts grant in photography and a participant in an Arts America tour in the Middle East and Asia for the United States

Information Agency. He has lectured in Morocco, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and at many museums and universities.

His exhibit, “Children of Children” which opened at the Witte in 1998, has traveled to more than 40 cities around the country.

Public Programs

Film Series Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Free

Films with discussion facilitated by medical professionals and film critic Bob Polunsky.

Oct. 14: *A Brilliant Madness*—presents the real story of Nobel Prize winning mathematician John Forbes Nash and his struggle with schizophrenia. 60 minutes (2002)

Oct. 28: *Sophie's Choice*—A haunting modern tragedy dealing with schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder. Academy Award winning performance by Meryl Streep. 157 minutes (1982) R

Nov. 4: *Ordinary People*—Powerful story of a family's struggle to deal with depression after a son's accidental death. 124 minutes (1980) R

Know Me As a Person: An Evening of Candid Conversation About Mental Illness

Nov. 11, 6-8 p.m. Free

Panelists from the exhibit and family members share their experiences. Moderated by Dr. Deanna Yates, who serves on the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, with an introduction by Wendy Rigby, KENS-5 medical reporter. Mental health agencies will provide information and resource materials.

Breaking the Silence: A True Crowning Achievement

Jan 6, 7-8 p.m. Free

Laura Lawless, Miss Arizona 2002, speaks about her struggle with depression and crusade to assist others in understanding the complexity of mental illness.

Locked in the Wrong House: A Complement to Photographs by Michael Nye Gemini Ink Dramatic Reader's Theater

Jan. 11, 2-4 p.m. Free with museum admission

From Lord Byron to Sylvia Plath, bipolar wordsmiths toss metaphors like mathematicians toss dice, creating work reflecting wild, profound slants on life. Dramatized readings will give insight into the unique, charged perspective of those who are, as the poet Anne Sexton said, "locked in the wrong house."

Beth was one of the most talented writers in her high school – she performed her own original songs on stage. Later, she was unable to leave her home, and literally stayed in one chair in her kitchen for years.



Thelma raised six children on the banks of the San Antonio River and sings Mexican ballads when she's alone. When she was 10, her mother tried to crash a hired plane in the desert near Alpine with her on board.



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