

Contact: Marita Holdaway at (206) 622-2480 / marita@benhamgallery.com

Release Date: Immediate Release

Kill Date: Oct. 16th, 2004, Images available upon request.

Gallery Info: Open Tues - Sat, 11am - 6pm, located at 1216 First Ave & University, downtown

Photography by White Center Teens to Appear at Aperture's 50th Anniversary Exhibition

A photo project by twenty students from White Center district will be on display at Bumbershoot and the Benham Gallery as part of an exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of Aperture, the influential publisher of photography. The images were taken through an on going community initiative spearheaded by Benham Gallery director Marita Holdaway back in Feb, 2004 when gallery artist Graham Nash was in town for the opening of his photographic exhibition and release of his book, "Eye To Eye".

"If you really believe that we have to invest in our youth because they are our future, then your actions need to reflect that," says gallery director Marita Holdaway. "As the government spends less and less money on the arts and social programs, the more private businesses and individuals have to contribute their own expertise and energy to make sure we teach kids about their options and give them skills."

In order to expose students to the creative aspects and career applications of photography, the Aperture West gave each student a book from the *Aperture Masters of Photography* series. They then created images of their own neighborhoods in the style of photography greats such as Berenice Abbot, Walker Evans and Man Ray.

Canon, Glazers Camera, Nash Editions, SanDisk, and patrons of Benham Gallery teamed up to donate a Canon Sure Shot digital camera to each student for this purpose. "This is an excellent example of how businesses can pull together for the community without spending a lot of money," remarks Holdaway.

The White Center project continues with the support of, Cascade Academy of Photography, Rock Studio, Rowland and Bridges to Understanding, an Internet storytelling project for youth worldwide, founded by Seattle fine art photographer Phil Borges. Through this organization, the students will learn the tools and the art of digital storytelling. The White Center youths will create accounts of these past eight months and share them with audiences at Bumbershoot August 31 – September 6 and at the Benham Gallery September 9 – October 16.

The public is invited to a very special reception with the White Center teens Thursday, September 23rd from 6 – 8 p.m. at the gallery.