

The support Benham and David Steinberg received after the vandalism was heartwarming. The following are emails that we wanted to share with our fans!

Thanks to everyone that has been there for us!
Hope to see you soon,
Marita

"David, this is awful. I'm so sorry to hear of it. I hope that the people who did this are found and prosecuted, although I know cases like this are difficult. I will forward your email to a GBLT listserv in Indiana that I know about. They're very much about advocacy and will want to know about this. If you need help sending letters to local officials asking for their support, let me know." -- **Melanie, New York**

"You must be shaken by what happened in Seattle. I'm sad to learn of the misfortune but maybe the press will help make it a great success. I often think of your work and its profound cultural value. May you have great success!" -- **Craig, Palm Springs, California**

"Imagine all the effort it took to throw a MANHOLE COVER thru the window. Those things weigh a ton! Think of all the things that could have been accomplished with all that effort. These people are simpletons who have ZERO going on in their lives. They are incapable of understanding their own actions, and too cowardly to face their own ideas and the deficiency inherent in them. I am in full support of your work. You're doing the right thing, and the smashed window is your proof. Keep on, keep on." -- **Garland, Pacific Grove, California**

"I was horrified to hear about the vandalism at your show but am glad to hear of the courage and commitment of you, the other artists, and the gallery owner in continuing to display the images in this show. The efforts you've made and continue to make in showing transsexuals in a positive light is a wonderful thing, and I am truly grateful to have someone as talented and inspired as you working on the behalf of people like myself." -- **Marissa, San Francisco**

"Oh, I am so sorry this happened. But in many respects, it can be an experience used to raise awareness in a country plagued with religious fundamentalism. I will make a trip to the gallery to show my support." -- **Satin, Vancouver, British Columbia**

"Consider that manhole a wonderful compliment. It tells you how what you are doing is so important, helping change the world to include more equal rights, compassion, tolerance and love." -- **Annie Sprinkle, San Francisco**

"I'm horrified of course -- horrified and angry, but not surprised." -- **Joani Blank, Oakland, California**

"Free expression does not extend to vandalism. A civil society accommodates divergent opinion and freedom of expression, but abhors, denounces, and punishes violence. People who resort to violence to express their reaction to art, should be denounced by public officials, and the perpetrators apprehended and prosecuted". -- **Jamison Green, Oakland, California**

"Great art has never been well received at the time it was conceived. Most of the amazing work we study today in art classes was, at it's time, controversial and upsetting. This art will live on. It will be remembered and that is what is important!" -- **Skye Ambrose, Seattle**

"I was so sorry to read of these acts of cowardice and intolerance. If we can't love, can't we at least live and let live? No one who has not experienced the inner turmoil and confusion of the transgendered can fully appreciate or understand the emotional and physical pressures they are under. It takes tremendous courage to be who we know ourselves to be, especially in a society

that is so ambivalent about the body and its mysteries.

"Thank you for the work you're doing." – Margo

"I am so sorry to hear about the vandalism at Benham Gallery! How disappointing. Marita Holdaway seems like she's a great person to have in your corner." -- Kara, San Francisco

"I am so sorry to hear of this. yet at the same time I know that these act of aggression and stupidity bring awareness that is unmatched. The press will awaken in folks a new way to look at what can be a profound understanding." -- Valerie, Santa Cruz, California

"I'm truly sorry that, once again, people have shown their repressive attitudes in this manner. It isn't enough to try to be a champion of a "group", however. You are doing "something" about the education of fearful people, to wit: raising consciousness surrounding the T.G. community. Bravo and keep up the good work." -- Shell

"I'm so sorry to hear about the vandalism and applaud you for being brave enough to show controversial art." -- Laura, Seattle

"I am very sorry to hear about the vandalizing that happened to your photos while they were on view in the Benham Gallery. It saddens my heart that people cannot be open-minded". -- Shirley

"So sorry to hear that this happened. My husband and I are sad that someone would react so violently to such beauty and courage as the photos represent. Hope that is the last of this kind of violent reaction to your fine work." -- Karen, Palo Alto, California

"Oh my.... oh dear.... I hope glass and viewing schedule were the only thing that were hurt in this incident. Sad.' -- Vena, San Diego, California

"I'm shocked & aghast about all this, and...it reinforces how important it is for you to keep doing what you're doing. I can only hope that negative publicity increases public awareness." -- Claudia, San Francisco

"Just a few words to show our support for your exhibition and all the truth it unfolds before the public eye. These heinous acts of violence against your gallery, the wonderful photos, and the transgender community everywhere, only lend fuel to the fact that closed and ignorant minds exist everywhere. We can only hope that their actions will catch up with them, as will their karma, and that there are some heroic figures in the great city of Seattle who will see to it that justice is done. I salute all of you for your bravery in exhibiting these works. Keep your spirits up, and to continue to do so, forever." -- Pet Silvia, New York

"It's sad to think of the mindless bigotry in these acts." -- Bob, Illinois

"Beautiful and courageous work during frightening times." -- Nadine, San Francisco

"It is with great sadness that I read about the vandalization that has taken place with the photo exhibit! I am happy to read that you will re-open, and my partner and I will make a great effort to get to see the exhibition when coming to Seattle this coming weekend!" -- Mats, Sweden

"I support of your showing the works of David Steinberg, et.al. It is important that censorship not be permitted to stop the exhibiting of this very important material." -- David Hersh, Nelson, BC

"Ugly as the vandalism is, I'd call that a successful gallery exhibition. Art is meant to evoke, after all... and that doesn't always mean it evokes happy cheerful emotions." -- **Theresa, Portland, OR**

"I am sorry about the idiots who vandalized The Benham Gallery." -- **Jim, Seattle**

"Oh no! I guess it's all an opportunity for education and all that, but really! So sorry to hear this, on so many levels." -- **Wendy, Maine**

"Wow! Keep up the good fight." -- **LaSara, Willits, California**

"When I heard about this, I was stunned. How horrible! What a violation! The owner of the place had it right to call it cowardly violence." -- **Heidi, Fremont, California**

"I can't believe in my city that this would happen. I'm shocked and saddened. And thrilled that Marita is being so amazing about all of this." -- **Allena Gabosch, Seattle**

"It was with great sadness I read of the criminal acts carried out probably in the name of Decency! I deplore and condemn such acts (any violence, really) and as someone sympathetic to the lot of TG/TV/CD people, I add my support to what you are doing in terms of helping to end discrimination." -- **Anthony, Melbourne, Australia**

"I had not heard about this over here on the East coast. I applaud your determination and courage and that of Ms. Holdaway in continuing to present the exhibit. It's discouraging how much sex and gender issues continue to terrify and enrage some people. I sincerely hope that whoever perpetrated this violence will be apprehended and that the community will demonstrate that this sort of crime will not be tolerated. Thank you for continuing to fight the good fight with your work." -- **Lily, New York**

"Wow, I'm glad that you and everyone else were unharmed. I'm annoyed that this happened, but pleased that the curator and other artists are standing behind you. You do wonderful work and I'm glad you're displaying it proudly!" -- **Kemi, San Francisco**

"This is very disturbing and I am sorry you had to experience it. I also can't help but look on the bright side: your art and the very important issues attached to it are getting lots of public attention. That could work for the greater good for all concerned." -- **Veronica, Grass Valley, California**

"Oh no! Oh gracious no! I alternate between being sad and furious at this. In Seattle! I guess this is the kind of wake up call we sometimes need to show us that there is still such a long way to go. Thank you for being a leader in these efforts." -- **Barbara, Tacoma**

"I'm sad to hear about the attack against Benham Gallery. I will obviously report on it in the next issue of Cupido." -- **Terje Gammelsrud, Cupido magazine, Oslo, Norway**

"I didn't know anyone even cared about art anymore. I'll put this story in the April issue." -- **Dick [Freeman], editor, Batteries Not Included, Yellow Springs, Ohio**

"Thank you for standing up with great courage in the face of this attack on you, your gallery, and all of us who believe in freedom of expression and tolerance for differences in our society. My relatives braved the horrific days and nights of smashed store windows, hatred, and persecution by Nazis, and increasing numbers here in the U.S. are living in a similar environment of hatred. The women of Divas, David Steinberg, and others who brave the bigotry in our society on a daily basis for being who they are and for what they do are heroes to many of us, and you are now as well. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to be of support from the San Francisco Bay

Area." -- **Allan Brill, Oakland, California**

"Sorry to hear of the vandalism and turmoil surrounding the art exhibit. You are doing important work!" -- **Julia, Vancouver, British Columbia**

"I'm SOOOO sorry, David. I am posting your email to others I know." -- **Gennifer, Los Angeles**

"I was so distressed to read of this attack on your show and on individual expression in general. I find myself struggling to be constructive with my anger. It's an anger that stems from a deep-seated fear of the dark side of our culture. I know that all of you, subjects and artists alike, must feel incredibly vulnerable. My heart is with you." -- **David, Portland, Oregon**

"We at The Kinsey Institute are appalled at the act of violence surrounding your exhibition. Though we see new acceptance in many ways of sexual expression and difference, it is a shock when people resort to violence and show such hate and intolerance. I hope that this event mobilizes your community to support both the art and the people whose lives are captured in your portraits." -- **Jennifer Bass, Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, Bloomington, Indiana**

"I am so upset by this very disturbing news about the vandalism at the gallery in Seattle. I received your message yesterday right before our staff meeting, so I took your book to show to my colleagues and told them about the two incidents last weekend. I hope the exhibition attracts a large crowd of supportive visitors to the Benham Gallery from now through April 12, to demonstrate to the vandals that the photographs have value and that people want to see them." -- **Catherine Johnson-Roehr, Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, Bloomington, Indiana**

"Really sorry to hear about the vandalism. I just don't get what people are so afraid of that they would rather hurt and break than attempt to understand. I will be thinking about you all and wishing you great success." -- **Melissa, Portland, Oregon**