

MEDIA RELEASE

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Do You Know What I Mean: The Lived Experience of Sex Trade Workers

July 7, 2008 CALGARY, ALBERTA – On Tuesday, July 8, 2008, The Art Gallery of Calgary opens a new photovoice exhibition that explores the sex trade through women's photography and stories. The exhibition titled "Do You Know What I Mean: The Lived Experience of Sex Trade Workers" features the works of five Calgary women, Candace, Holly, Nicole, Vicki and Tammy.

The show, part of a year-long research project by The Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary and the United Way of Calgary and Area intends to change social consciousness and to create understanding of the complex issues of the sex trade.

Each series of images has a different story. Tammy a peer researcher assisting with this community-based research study tells her story; "I know today my experience needs a voice, my story needs to be told. As one of the fortunate few to escape this lifestyle, I have a responsibility to do all that I can to raise awareness about the sex trade and the damage it does to a women's spirit and the community. My journey is just beginning..."

The Art Gallery of Calgary is a spectacular, inspiring space – a perfect place in which to discover and celebrate contemporary art, a voice and venue for art and ideas that offers Calgarians and visitors an insightful take on contemporary art.

The Art Gallery of Calgary acknowledges the generous support of, Calgary Art Development Authority; Alberta Foundation for the Arts; Canada Council for the Arts; Blue Hydrangea; Gruman's Extraordinary Catering; INDUSTRYImages; Royal Liquor Merchants; Energy 101.5; Calgary Herald; Citytv; Avenue Magazine

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