

Day 1

Motif: CHAIR

Chairs have a number of meanings in De'VIA art: isolation, passivity, emptiness, but also welcoming and collectivism. Chairs can represent restrictive activity, places where Deaf children are forced into.

Category: RESISTANCE

Arnaud Balard

Illusion of Equality

Artist Statement: I am deaf-blind. To find a chair, I search for its back with my hand and I am able to sit down like all of you. Your response may be to gasp because you anticipate that I may fall. This is a cynical and crude point of view but I view it as a starting point for reflection. In order for equality to move from being an illusion to being truly realized we need solidarity and respect, two vectors of humanistic values.

Day 2

Motif: FISH

The fish represents Deaf identity or Deaf people.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Stevie Naeyaert

Plenty of ASL in the Sea

Artist Statement: I saw an image online of a goldfish jumping out of a fishbowl and was inspired to create a De'VIA artwork out of that. Fishbowls represent the isolating environment of language deprived Deaf children - and the sea represents Deaf children bursting with language.

Day 3

Motif: SHADOW

The shadow can be something hidden or a message.

Category: RESISTANCE

Amy Cohen Efron

Language First

Artist Statement: This photo presents a very sterile environment with a clean glass surface along with a few well-known audio logical equipment and hearing aids. The equipment is placed randomly on the glass surface anticipating to be put to use. Once or twice a year, my ears are examined. My hearing aids are calibrated and the tubes are replaced to maintain their working order. The shadows underneath the tools spell out ASL, American Sign Language, which is a constant reminder that no matter what kind of tools, devices, and accessories are available; there is always the need for language.

Day 4

Motif: WINDOW

Windows can be seen through, and represent a lack of barriers. They are visual symbols and are passage ways or openings to Deaf spaces and the World.

Category: AFFIRMATION

David Call

Paint a DeVIA Window, You Shall Escape

Artist Statement: De'VIA, or Deaf Visual Arts, is truly therapeutic art for everyone especially for those who experience audism oppression. When you create a De'VIA piece, you open a window to another world to escape from the land of oppression. It happens a lot in my art classroom when my students do De'VIA art.

Day 5

Motif: BELL

Bells represent sound and the testing of hearing ability. Bells can be used to distract hearing people and get their attention.

Category: RESISTANCE

Nancy Rourke

Decolonize AGBELL

Artist Statement: This painting is about defending our Deaf schools, which is why my painting shows the Deaf girl as being “colonized” by the Alexander Graham Bell Association system. The association has had a history of belittling the importance of Deaf Schools and Deaf culture for many years.

Day 6

Motif: BIRDHOUSE

Birdhouses are Deaf communities and a safe haven from audism and oppression.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Ellen Mansfield

50 Birdhouses

Artist Statement: This painting shows birdhouses, which represents the Deaf community in each state. The US Capitol in DC is seeing the 50 State-Deaf communities stand up to make changes to the ADA and civil rights laws that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life.

Day 7

Motif: MAZE

When you go through a maze you can become confused or lost. Repetition can occur and it can feel like there is nowhere to go and there is no hope of getting out.

Category: RESISTANCE

Karen Christie

the aMAZing audiogram

Artist Statement: This artwork expresses how Deaf children must endure the maze of numerous hearing tests and an awareness of being viewed by the medical field in the US as “impaired hearing people” who need to be fixed or cured. In this work one of the mice has a wind up key implanted on its back and the other has an ear implanted on its back. The maze is designed to look like an audiogram with left and right ear sound notation. At the exit of the maze is a piece of cheese.

Day 8

Motif: LANTERN

The lantern has the meaning of searching for truth and can represent our ancestors.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Laurie Monahan

In Honor of Veditz's

Artist Statement: The lantern beam shines over George and Mary Veditz's grave as they will never be forgotten by the Deaf community. George Veditz was the former president of the National Association of the Deaf of the United States and was one of the first to film American Sign Language in the early twentieth century.

Day 9

Motif: BLOOD DROP OR TEAR

When the eye stares it becomes exhausted, the drop or tear can also represent paying close attention and repetition.

Category: RESISTANCE

Takiyah Harris

Deaf children become frustrated with their education system

Artist Statement: Many Deaf and Hard of Hearing children express their frustrations about the language deprivation as governments and society do not recognize that the education system is not an equal system. In this painting, the child is struggling to write the perfect sentence. The current system is not equal for all.

Day 10

Motif: INTERPRETER

Interpreters often represent access to communication between Deaf and Hearing people.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Daniel Winship

Pull--a--terp

Artist Statement: A *terp* is a shortened version of the word interpreter used by those who are deaf. The inspiration for this painting came from an interpreter I had in college. I envisioned a pull string toy because I wanted to show the speed of sign language as it was being interpreted from spoken English. To show my appreciation to the interpreter, I decided to create a pull string toy that was similar to the Oscar statue. Doing this art piece helped bring humor and awareness to the profession of sign language interpreting.

Day 11

Motif: TUG-A-WAR

A tug-a-war indicates a struggle or being tied-up.

Category: RESISTANCE

Nancy Rourke

Identity Tug-a-War

Artist Statement: The rope between the ear and the eye is a metaphor of the game tug-a-war. The Ear is for listening and spoken language, while the Eye is for visual sign language. The hands pull the rope back and forth as the person is confused, not knowing which identity to choose from.

Day 12

Motif: MOUNTAINS

Mountains symbolize the strength and survival of the Deaf community and culture, standing strong against the “waves of oralism,” (based on a quote from Paddy Ladd.)

Category: AFFIRMATION

Jerry Grant (Dawah)

Deaf Planet Soul, Take the Top

Artist Statement: This painting is about people who are Deaf having their place in society everywhere around the world.

Flags that are represented:

1. Deaf Union
2. Israel, Turkey, India and Brazil
3. Arizona, New Mexico, Vietnam, Mexico, Ghana and Japan
4. Chicago, Texas, Washington DC, Montreal, Canada and Switzerland
5. Los Angeles, Puerto Rico and Colorado

Day 13

Motif: BIRDCAGE

The birdcage is a metaphor for being held back by something, either physically or emotionally.

Category: RESISTANCE

Ellen Mansfield

Head of Audiologist and ASL Bird

Artist Statement: This work symbolizes how Deaf people can be brainwashed to stay inside the cage of *Masked Benevolence*. The cage is a portrait of Audiologists and the Alexander Graham Bell Association. There are many children held captive in the cage that no one helps or provides opportunities to expose them to American Sign Language and Deaf culture. I painted a peace dove as a symbol of hope for Deaf children to have a better journey.

Day 14

Motif: STREAM

A stream can represent smooth travel and navigation through the world without significant barriers. The environment of streams and water represent places where Deaf people naturally fit and being able to hear is not an “advantage.” Stream can also mean the struggle of living between both worlds and feeling split.

Category: AFFIRMATION or RESISTANCE

Bob Rourke

Save our Deaf Schools

Artist Statement: Deaf children continue to be oppressed due to the closing of much needed schools. A stream flows over the red sleeping bold mountain through a school for the Deaf. Once a deaf student enters and is educated, their eyes are opened to the whole world as an independent, literate person with good social and leadership skills. The waterfall stands for a feeling of accomplishment that is critical to their well-being.

Day 15

Motif: WIND-UP KEY

A wind-up key repeats in its rotation, it can mean repetition, flashbacks or bad memories.

Category: RESISTANCE

Roz Rosen

PAH Understand!

Artist Statement: With an ASL turnkey, a rainbow of dormant brain cogs start whirring. Cognition, connections & community finally become possible.

Day 16

Motif: DANDELION

Meaning: Dandelions symbolize nature, and natural-growing things that are sometimes viewed by the majority/dominant culture as undesirable. Dandelions refer to growth and future in the face of this oppression. [Based on an ASL poem by Clayton Valli]

Category: AFFIRMATION

Yusuf Yahya

The Spirited hand of Dandelion

Artist Statement: The young black Deaf girl is blowing a dandelion with a magical spirited hand.

Day 17

Motif: HOURGLASS

The hourglass has the meaning of running out of time.

Category: RESISTANCE

Kathy Fisher-Abraham

Timed

Artist Statement: In the past, doctors & Alexander Graham Bell pushed the misconceived notion that deaf children should never be taught sign language because they would not speak. Those deaf children were brutally forced into speech and listening therapy, being made to listen to words and sounds over and over again and repeat them. If they were ever caught using their hand movements to communicate to each other, they would get punished for it. This needs to stop and we have the right to choose what method of communication we desire.

Day 18

Motif: THIRD EYE

The third eye is the collective consciousness

Category: AFFIRMATION

Yusuf Yhya

Awakening of the Third Eye

Artist Statement: This is a self-portrait, trying to understand the role of the pineal gland and exploring vision.

Day 19

Motif: HARLEQUIN OR JESTER

A joker, someone who lies or has a phony personality

Category: RESISTANCE

Laurie Monahan

Ab! My Eyes!

Artist Statement: A manipulated and greedy jester uses his tools to brainwash the parents of deaf children to choose hearing aids, teaching their children to be oralists—people who are able to hear and talk. Their native language, American Sign Language, is removed.

Day 20

Motif: MOTHER OF ALL DEAF SOULS

A mother of all Deaf souls protects the Deaf community and cherishes Deaf babies. She is a safe place.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Pattie Durr

Root of Your Soul

Artist Statement: The Mother of all Deaf Souls is sitting on a nest with two eggs, and the cord of life- the spiral coming out of her center, forms the roots of the trees that frame and embrace her, as if a womb. Her arms are branches and she has a stencil on her chest with a bent ring finger, which is a hand shape used in Nepal, to indicate people of the Handeye.

Day 21

Motif: ZIPPER

The zipper represents keeping the truth from unveiling or keeping quite. Also means to be colonized.

Category: RESISTANCE

Jeffrey Beatty

LSL Zaps Deaf Minds

Artist Statement: LSL stands for Listening Spoken Language that comes from the Alexander Graham Bell Association, where they believe only in listening and speaking. The concept of this piece is about language deprivation and colonialism among the Deaf community and Deaf people being starved of visual language.

Day 22

Motif: BRIDGE

The bridge brings worlds together. It can be a symbol of coalition, connection, teamwork and reinforcement.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Aurelio Cruz

Two Worlds

Artist Statement: As a deaf person, I grew up in two worlds, hearing and deaf. I have a deaf and hard-of-hearing family. My sisters understand more of what it is like to be deaf in a hearing world. The Deaf world often welcomes others to share its culture, language and beliefs.

Day 23

Motif: FENCE

A fence provides boundaries, barriers and protection

Category: RESISTANCE

Heidi Storme

kome on karl"~katch a klue

Artist Statement: We are taught to see things as we do, it's when we reverse engineer our own learning, that we see doors shut for us, not BY us.

Day 24

Motif: NEST

A nest is a nurturing Deaf space. It represents a community protecting, sheltering and fostering a future generation.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Diane A. Squires

Deaf Family

Artist Statement: Like many hearing parents, Deaf parents build a nest—laying eggs and protecting their Deaf children. The nest symbolizes protection from Alexander Graham Bell, and people who oppose American Sign Language. The loving parents have provided a strong and safe comfort zone for the Deaf baby birds, away from the heavy oppression and stigma of the hearing world. The work also illustrates the ability of the Deaf to hear with their eyes.

Day 25

Motif: BLACK HOLE

Black holes represent Audism; it takes away Deaf identity and Deaf culture. It is disappearance or a pit.

Category: RESISTANCE

David Call

Emptiness

Artist Statement: Black audism cells are devouring colorful Deaf soul cells into emptiness.

Day 26

Motif: MOTH

The moth represents the need for light.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Paul Scarce

Deaf Moths Attracted to a Light Bulb

Artist Statement: We Deaf people are exactly like the moths because we must have light to see & communicate with sign language in the darkness. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing community flocks together to socialize and interact through social clubs. The hands and eyes are the symbols of our visual communication through sign language.

Day 27

Motif: BUTTON EYE

The button eye means doll, brainwashed, colonized or hiding from Deaf identity.

Category: RESISTANCE

Laurie Monahan

Unfortunate Girl

Artist Statement: This is a self-portrait of me in 6th grade, as an isolated child, deprived from native language and colonized (the reason for the birdcage over my head). I was a victim of being bullied and assaulted several times. When I was about 11 years old, I finally got rid of the birdcage and buttons. I think about the many deaf children that are still going through a similar situation to mine.

Day 28

Motif: SPIRAL

Spiral is a symbol like a swirl, meaning cochlear as it can be used as a resistance category. It can also be used for affirmation as it can mean dreaming or a shape like a flower.

Category: AFFIRMATION/RESISTANCE

Robert Tawney

Deaf Rights Now!

Artist Statement: A small light grows behind "Deaf Rights", a movement becoming bigger every day. A spiral turns around so fast, faster, fastest —like National Deaf Rallies marching at every state capitol around the USA.

Our Deaf Rights deserve 100% on:

Communication

Education

Employment

Equality Access

Day 29

Motif: TREASURE BOX

The treasure box represents the value of ASL.

Category: AFFIRMATION

Kathy Fisher-Abraham

Our Deaf Memories

Artist Statement: The Treasure opened, revealing the dream Deaf people have cherished, being given access to our language—as well as our rights—having no barriers at all. This provides us many opportunities to careers that we desire without any obstacle.

