

# Mental Illness Exhibit: Photographs Tell Their Stories



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May 25, 2008 05:12 PM



Have you ever looked at portraits in a gallery and wondered about the lives of the people staring back at you?

Michael Nye's exhibit called "Fine Line: Mental Health/Mental Illness" lets you hear the voices behind the faces in these photographs.

Just pick up a headset and listen.

"The first time that I experienced depression that I can remember was probably when I was like four or five, just knowing that I was different," said a distraught woman.

"My parents sent me to a mental hospital when I was six. I didn't like it there; it was probably the worst experience I've had," said a homeless man.

"You're standing there and you're looking deeply into this very detailed photo while you're listening to this person's deepest thoughts, and it's gotta completely absorb you and capture you," said a person at exhibit.

"My multiple personalities came from the need to protect myself against the shock of the traumatic occurrences I had growing up. I'm alive because of my personalities," said a schizophrenic woman.

The exhibit illuminates a subject we seldom talk about and for many visitors, it's unique.

"I have never seen so difficult a topic so artfully realized. knowing that these people received attention and care is what makes this transcendent," said one voice.

Admission to the exhibit is free.

You can see it Tuesday through Sunday until May 31 at the Linekona Art Center just across the street from the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

Last Updated ( May 25, 2008 05:50 PM )

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