



Photo courtesy of Venice Arts

LIFE AS VIEWED THROUGH THE LENS: "Gordon in the Field" by Ursula Barker (above) and "Self Portrait" by Francesca Thomas (below) are two of the works featured. The exhibit will run through June 30. The opening reception will be held on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Venice Gallery.

A picture tells a story

Venice Arts students
get a chance to show
their photo memoirs

BY MELODY HANATANI
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CITYWIDE The drama, the confusion, the heartbreak ... life as a teenage girl is anything but easy.

Five girls between the ages of 14 and 16 are getting the opportunity to tell the story of their lives through a collection of photographic works, on display at the Venice Arts Gallery this month.

The exhibit is the product of a year-long assignment in the advanced student photography class at Venice Arts, a nonprofit organization providing visual arts classes for low-income youth in the Los Angeles area.

Venice Arts will host an opening reception for the exhibit on Saturday.

Many of the students have been a part of the program for up to two to three years, but this was the first time the students were given their own cameras and assigned the task of leaving the classroom to document their everyday lives. This exhibit is a result of that innovative assignment.

"I was able to get a sense of what their lives were like outside of Venice Arts and see the ways they were able to express



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