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VENICE ARTS GALLERY HOSTS "INJUSTICE, POWER & UNUSUAL PEOPLE":
A Retrospective of Work by Pulitzer Prize-Nominated Photographer Jim Hubbard

Venice, CA – (August 23, 2010) – On October 2, 2010, the Venice Arts Gallery opens an exhibit by Photographer Jim Hubbard, offering a retrospective of Jim's career as an acclaimed Photojournalist and Documentary Photographer, as well as never-before-seen personal projects. Hubbard has received over 100 awards for his work, including three Pulitzer Prize nominations for his series on the growing crisis of Homelessness in America (1987), the Rapid City, SD flash flood that killed hundreds (1972), and the Siege at Wounded Knee, South Dakota (1973).

Called "Injustice, Power, & Unusual People," the show tracks Jim's development as a young Photographer at the Detroit News covering the 1967 Detroit Riots, through his most current work from Southern Africa and Palestine. Also represented are selections from his coverage of five presidents as a member of the White House Press Corps during his 16-year stint with United Press International; numerous presidential campaigns, including extraordinary portraits of Bobby Kennedy interacting with an adoring public in Indianapolis shortly before his assassination in 1968; and intimate portraits of Jim's mother during her struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

When asked about selecting work from a 40-year career, Jim said, "As a photographer, I've had a very rich life. I've seen human suffering, terrible injustice, and also how resilient people can be under the most adverse circumstances. I've also been around people with tremendous power to effect or prevent change. My goal is reflect all of those realities. I'm also selecting photos that haven't been seen much, like my series on Alfie, an odd character who collected dolls in Omaha, Nebraska; they literally filled his apartment."

About the exhibit, Gallery & Public Programs Manager Elysa Voshell said, "I consider this the Showcase Exhibit for our first year of redefining our Gallery's focus on documentary and participant-produced photography. It was Jim's work with kids that inspired the creation of Venice Arts 17 years ago. Also, his personal work is so strong and compelling. It reflects pivotal events, issues, and people—from the late 1960s to his recent documentary projects—that we think will interest many."

Brief Bio on Jim Hubbard

Reflecting on how he became a photographer, Jim said, "I fell in to it, really, and it changed my life. I was a blue-collar boy from Detroit and all I knew is that I didn't want to end up in the factories like my dad. I got a job at the "Detroit News" sharpening pencils for the writers, and one day a photographer named Raleigh Ransom said, 'Boy'—that's what they called us back then—'do you want to try photography?' And that was it for me. Before I knew it I was literally in the middle of a war zone in my home town, covering the Riots that would result in the complete collapse of my City, and seeing my work published around the world."

In addition to his work as a photographer, Jim is known as the Founder of the internationally-acclaimed program, Shooting Back, teaching both Homeless and Native American youth how to use photography to describe their worlds: "shooting back" as the experts of their lives rather than the subjects of a professional photographer's work. Now often referred to as "Participant-Produced" or "Pluralist Photography," it is a field in which Jim is cited as a pioneer, with his work examined in a wide range of literature and academic journals on photography, visual sociology, and contemporary art. Additionally, along with Venice Arts' Founder Lynn Warshafsky, Jim Co-Founded Venice Arts' Institute for Photographic Empowerment, a collaboration with the University of Southern California's Annenberg School, where he is now a Professor and advisor on the development of the first known Minor in Participant-Photography, launching at USC this Fall.

Jim's photography has been exhibited nationally and internationally, featured in major print and television media, including the "New York Times," the "Washington Post," "Los Angeles Times," the A & E Biography Series: "Uncommon Americans," "Oprah," and more. He has also authored five books including "American Refugees," Forward by Jonathan Kozol, University of Minnesota Press (1991); "Shooting Back," Forward by Dr. Robert Coles, Chronicle Books (1991); and "Shooting Back from the Reservation," Forward Dennis Banks, The New Press (1994), among others. Shooting Back's photographs have been among the most widely viewed and publicized images in modern photographic history.

About Venice Arts' Gallery and Public Programs

The Venice Arts Gallery primarily features the work of Documentary Photographers and high-caliber Participant-Produced Photography. Public Programs include workshops for adults and free lectures, conversations, and film screenings. This fall, concurrent with Hubbard's exhibit, the Public Programs will look at Documentary Photography, Photojournalism, and Visual Storytelling in the Digital Age through a series of lectures, panel discussions, and workshops.

The Venice Arts Gallery is a program of the non-profit Venice Arts that, since 1993, has received critical acclaim around the world for its innovative mentoring and educational programs for Los Angeles-area youth in Photography, Filmmaking, and Multimedia. Venice Arts also conducts Documentary Programs locally and internationally with adults and children; runs the Institute for Photographic Empowerment with USC; and consults with other organizations, foundations, and individuals on the development of similar programs. Venice Arts' newest partnership is a consulting contract in Hong Kong for the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation, for whom Venice Arts has developed a photography curriculum, is training their Teaching Artists, and will curate an exhibit of work by Hong Kong youth at The Hong Kong Cultural Art Center in July 2011.

Hi-Res images available upon request.

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