



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXHIBITION: “The Curse of the Blessing”: a group show by artists with Hyperemesis Gravidarum (more severe than morning sickness which increases risk for pregnancy complications)

EXHIBITION DATES: September 21 – November 29, 2025

RECEPTION: Sunday, September 21, 2-5pm

EVENTS: Artist-Patient/Medical Professional Conversation, HG Open Mic, Webern quartet (and a complete list at opening reception)

GALLERY HOURS: Thursdays – Saturdays, 10am-5pm and by appointment

LOCATION: dnj Gallery, 3015 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405

CONTACT: office@dnjgallery.net

WEBSITE: <https://www.dnjgallery.net>

Pamela Schoenberg, owner/director of dnj Gallery, and Ted Meyer, founder of ‘ArtandMed,’ are pleased to announce their exhibition “**The Curse of the Blessing**”: a group show by artists with Hyperemesis Gravidarum. This art exhibit is part of the ‘Art and Med’ program at dnj Gallery, which is aimed at enhancing education, spreading awareness, and raising funds for chronic health conditions.

The ‘ArtandMed’ curriculum emphasizes the voice of the artist-patient. It explains the necessity for the telling of the lived experience in the making of the object. This curriculum, created by Ted Meyer, is widely used in medical schools to further healthcare knowledge. dnj Gallery has assembled a program consisting of an art exhibition and corresponding events to express this distinct perspective. This program highlights a joint participation with artist-patients with chronic illnesses, and, as a result, dnj Gallery’s ‘Art and Med’ also reveals a commitment to utilizing art as a tool to support these individuals.

Our next program deals with Hyperemesis Gravidarum, which is more severe than morning sickness which increases risk for pregnancy complications. HG is extreme and persistent, and the nausea and vomiting can lead to hospitalization and require the use of intravenous fluids. The symptoms result in dehydration, weight loss, and dizziness. HG increases the risk of other pregnancy illnesses (i.e., Pre-eclampsia, Post-partum Depression, Gestational Diabetes and Pre-term birth).

“The Curse of the Blessing” includes a collaboration with the HER Foundation. The “Hyperemesis Education and Research (HER) Foundation’s mission is to provide Hyperemesis Gravidarum support, advocacy, education, and research to improve

treatment and outcomes. Since 2000, we have been a top resource for information on HG and have helped over 3 million people across the globe.” We are excited to partner with such an amazing group of women.

The main idea expressed by the artist-patients, through the images of this exhibit, is one of therapeutic release. It is “a participatory project with HG sufferers,” as Clare Hughes explains, and “[the work is a] visual metaphor for how its participants have felt during their pregnancies.” By sharing emotions, and thus reducing inner conflicts, art preoccupies the mind, body, and spirit in a method that is dissimilar from verbal communication. Art emphasizes active body regulation, helping you replace the negative image with a positive one. “My babies are a blessing. Hyperemesis Gravidarum is a horrible curse, a curse that almost irrevocably changed my entire life,” states Leta Jeffers.