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Art and Autism Intersect on Monday, Feb. 28

Center for Persons With Disabilities
ART AND AUTISM INTERSECT ON MONDAY, FEB. 28

February 25, 2011 by JoLynne Lyon

An exhibition of photographic art will feature families of Cache Valley children with autism spectrum disorder. It is one of the faculty projects featured in the Utah State University Department of Art Faculty Exhibition beginning Monday, February 28.

The collection of photos is entitled 1 in 110. It takes its name from the statistical probability that a child will be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, according to a 2009 report from the Centers for Disease Control.

Most researchers agree that the causes of ASD must include an environmental component. The effects of toxicity in the environment on human health have long interested Christopher Gauthier, an assistant professor of art and the photographer who created 1 in 110. In an invitation letter, Jacqueline and Christopher urged Utahns to support intervention programs provided by the CPD’s Up to 3 program. Their daughter, Madeline, is featured in the exhibit.

Also featured is the CPD’s Janel Preston, lead teacher in the ABC classroom. The ABC class is for families who have a child with an ASD diagnosis or are in the process of getting one.

The photos will be on display in the Fine Arts Visual Gallery 102 on the Utah State University campus from the evening of February 28 through March 25, as part of the Current Works of USU and CEU Art Faculty exhibit. The event begins with a reception from 5 to 7 pm on February 28, and it is open to the public. To find the gallery, go through the north entrance of the Fine Arts visual wing. Gallery 102 is the first door on the left.

Madeline Gauthier’s portrait is one of many photos that will be in the exhibit.
Dax Drysdale also appears in 1 in 110.