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**Images of Irene:
Telling Our Stories Through Photos & Poems**

Woodstock, VT - December 19, 2011 - ArtisTree Community Arts Center & Gallery is proud to announce the opening of *Images from Irene*; an exhibit reflecting the work of six community members who participated in a photography class lead by Carla Kimball entitled *Telling Our Stories Through New Eyes*.

"In Carla's class I received a whole new perspective about how to look at the world - how to find new and interesting subjects to photograph and how to 'see' through the lens" says participant Lisa Lacasse. "Carla challenged us to look for new things to photograph and to think through how best to tell the story of each photograph."

Over the course of seven sessions at ArtisTree, students wove together photography, poetry and stories to chronicle each individual's experience of Tropical Storm Irene. The exhibit presents both their visual and poetic narratives of the storm.

"In this class we had the opportunity to explore our respective experiences with the flooding of Irene and its aftermath." Says Kimball. "The combination of finding photos to reflect our narratives and honing the poems to capture the essence of our experience was a profound dive into our personal and shared experiences."

The *Images of Irene* exhibit at ArtisTree presents dual aspects of the class. Through images and poems, the lower level gallery will reflect the personal and universal expressions of Irene and its effect on ourselves, our communities and our land. The upper gallery will exhibit examples derived from the new way of seeing the world through class exercises.

"This class has made me appreciate the power of photography in communicating a story" says participant Rick Fiske. "(it) helped me see another side of Irene - in dark there's also light"

The opening reception for this special exhibit will be held on Friday January 6th from 6-8pm at ArtisTree Gallery. **Photographs will be for sale by donation and proceeds will be donated to the Sustainable Woodstock Flood Relief Fund.** The exhibition will be available for viewing Tuesday through Saturday, January 7-21st from 11am-2pm or by appointment.

Carla Kimball has long known the value of the arts to expand people's awareness and has experienced the power of storytelling to help heal a broken heart and the power of photography to focus and quiet the mind. Carla is also a Public Speaking Presence Coach and offers workshops and coaching services. Learn more about Carla at www.riverways.com and www.revealedpresence.com. For more information about Sustainable Woodstock's Flood Relief Fund visit www.sustainablewoodstock.org.

ArtisTree Community Arts Center & Gallery is located in Woodstock Vermont on Route 12 just north of downtown. Their mission is to promote the creation, exhibition, and appreciation of art both locally and regionally. For more details or to learn more about ArtisTree visit, www.artistreevt.org/gallery or call 802.457.3500.
