



## Homeless in Haiti

This fall, the Art Museum of the Americas will examine life in Haiti with two exhibits, "Tent Life: Haiti" and "Young Haitians with Disability."

Photographer Wyatt Gallery visited Haiti following the devastating January 2010 earthquake to chronicle the lives of displaced Haitians in the semi-permanent tent communities that have sprouted in the capital of Port-au-Prince. According to the United Nations, some 600,000 people still live in the sprawling tent camps nearly two years after the 7.0-magnitude quake, with many lacking basic services and vulnerable to sexual violence and cholera.

Gallery's resulting photo series shines a light on these uprooted lives, young and old, working independently and creatively to improve their bleak conditions. The images are collected in a book, "Tent Life: Haiti,"

and offer a visceral depiction of people facing tremendous challenges with undeterred resilience, relying on their own resourcefulness rather than outside aid.

Wyatt Gallery, a Fulbright fellow and former University of Pennsylvania professor, has been published in the New York Times, Esquire, Mother Jones, Newsweek and other publications. In 1998, after graduating from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, Gallery began traveling the Caribbean photographing spiritual sites through a Rosenberg grant. He spent two years in Trinidad and Tobago on a Fulbright Fellowship, documenting its religious places, landscapes, people and



PHOTO: WYATT GALLERY

Wyatt Gallery's "Girl in White Tent" is part of the photography book "Tent Life: Haiti," whose proceeds go to post-disaster recovery efforts.

homes.

Gallery's work in Haiti offers a vastly different perspective. The faces of Haitians stare pointedly but honestly into the photographer's camera, often surrounded by the blue-tinted hue of their makeshift tent homes or the debris-strewn landscape outside. Beyond offering a powerful visual essay on what daily life is still like for hundreds of thousands of Haitians, Gallery aims to help them as well. Copies of "Tent Life: Haiti" will be available throughout the run of the exhibition for \$40, with 100 percent of the royalties going to the Haitian charities J/P Haitian Relief Organization, Healing Haiti, and the Global Syndicate. The book has so far raised more than \$30,000 for Haitian relief.

Also on display is "Young Haitians with Disability," made up of 28 drawings by young Haitians based on an initiative of the country's secretary of state for the integration of persons with disabilities. Haitian youth participated in the drawing contest to highlight the importance of building an inclusive society and incorporating the concept of universal accessibility into the country's rebuilding efforts.

The resulting drawings also showcase the talent of Haiti's youth and their stirring message of finding opportunity in their nation's post-earthquake odyssey.

"Tent Life: Haiti" and "Young Haitians with Disability" run through Dec. 2 at the Organization of American States Art Museum of the Americas, 201 18th St., NW. For more information, please call (202) 458-6016 or visit <http://museum.oas.org>.

—Fresia Rodriguez



## ARTSDESK

# Reviewed: Wyatt Gallery at Art Museum of the Americas

Posted by **Louis Jacobson** on Oct. 19, 2011 at 2:00 pm

Is it appropriate to find transcendence in photographs of abject poverty? That is one of the unsettling questions posed by **Wyatt Gallery's** exhibit "Tent Life: Haiti." (Gallery, incidentally, is a person, not a venue.) Gallery's post-earthquake series surveys the human heartache of the disaster, from impromptu garbage dumps picked over by goats and children to a gaunt, elderly woman with her hand in a pose



that eerily echoes that of **Dorothea Lange's** iconic migrant mother. Yet the inescapable motif in this exhibition is tents—ones in which survivors have established semi-permanent settlements. Some of Gallery's tent images show sights that are overwhelming, with boxy structures stretching as far as the eye can see. But others are, despite the disorder, oddly calming, filtering in an ethereal light, lushly toned with blue, red or white hues. Equally bittersweet is the photograph of a group of boys joyfully frolicking in a gorgeous ocean tableau, within sight of a torrent of floating, rotting trash.



*The exhibition is on view 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday to Nov. 2 at the Art Museum of the Americas/OAS Terrace Level Photo Gallery, 1889 F St. NW.*

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Posted at 10:46 AM ET, 11/14/2011

### Things to do Nov. 16 - Nov. 21

By Jillian S. Sowah

Wednesday, Nov. 16

**"Tent Life,"** photography of life in Haiti. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Nov. 25, Art Museum of the Americas, 201 18th St. NW. 202-458-6016.

**"The Black List,"** photographs by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders explore the careers and lives of preeminent African Americans. 11:30 a.m.-7 p.m., National Portrait Gallery, Eighth and F streets NW. 202-633-1000.

**Mock Family Feud,** for age 60 and older, join a team and play the feud. 10:30 a.m.-noon, Camp Springs Senior Center, 6420 Allentown Rd., Camp Springs. Free. 301-449-0490.

**Wine and Design,** for age 21 and older, paint a masterpiece while enjoying wine and cheese. 6:30-9 p.m., Color Me Mine - Silver Spring, 823 Ellsworth Dr., Silver Spring. \$40 includes artwork. Registration required. 301-565-5105 or <http://www.silverspring.colormemine.com>.

**Legal and Financial Planning Workshop,** for families dealing with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Learn about legal documents that fit your needs, financial assistance, long-term plan of care, tax deductions and credits, government programs and more. Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. 7-8:30 p.m., Residence on Greenbelt, 9885 Greenbelt Rd., Lanham. Admission free. Registration required. 703-359-4440, [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca) or [ProgramNCA@alz.org](mailto:ProgramNCA@alz.org).

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## Going Out Guide for the District of Columbia, Oct. 13-19



**Kids Euro Festival** KIDS EURO FESTIVAL - Lila Slavova and Ivan Dimitrov of Bulgaria will be among the acts at the Kids Euro Festival, which opens Friday.

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By Camie Donovan, Published: October 13

**THU 13**

**"After the Quake"** Rorschach Theatre performs a play based on Haruki Murakami's short stories involving a writer helping a girl as a frog saves Tokyo from a giant worm. Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Through Nov. 6. Atlas Performing Arts Center, 1333 H St. NE. 202-399-7993. [www.atlasarts.org](http://www.atlasarts.org). \$25, seniors and students \$15.

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**Helmet** The New York grunge band performs. With Regents and Galloping Ruin. Mainstage. 8 p.m. Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW. 202-667-7960. [www.blackcatdc.com](http://www.blackcatdc.com). \$18.

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**Return of the Kings of Hip Hop** Rakim headlines. With Big Daddy Kane, Slick Rick, Rob Base, Special Ed, Kurtis Blow, Dana Dane and Chubb Rock. 8 p.m. DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and C streets NW. 202-628-4780. 202-397-7328. [www.dar.org/consthall](http://www.dar.org/consthall). \$39-50-\$74.50.

**Jay Phillips** The D.C. native has appeared on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam" and films "Semi Pro" and "Baby Mama." Thursday at 8:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Riot Act Comedy Club, 801 E St. NW. 202-697-4900. [www.riotactcomedy.com](http://www.riotactcomedy.com). \$15-\$17.

**"Tent Life"** Photographer Wyatt Gallery documents life in Haiti after the earthquake of 2010. Opens Thursday. Through Nov. 25. Art Museum of the Americas, 201 18th St. NW. 202-458-6016. [www.museum.oas.org](http://www.museum.oas.org).

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