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New Art Exhibit at ImagineIF Kalispell

Kalispell, MT – During May and June, the art exhibit space at ImagineIF Kalispell features photographs by Margaret Davis of Lakeside and Chelsie Dwello of Kalispell, as well as mixed media by Michelle Edland of Whitefish. The art encompasses a range of subjects, from everyday objects to civil unrest in Syria.

As Margaret Davis explains in the story behind her photographs, she and three other “American grannies” had already made plans to travel to Jordan and Syria long before the Arab Spring erupted in early 2011. She writes, “These pre-civil war photographs are primarily tourist snaps. But underneath there was always a sense of anxiety. Few women are shown because at their request they did not want to appear on Facebook or any other publicly accessible website. I have been careful to omit any images of those who offered us hospitality or assistance. We were watched much of the time by agents of the government. During the past three years of conflict many of the places we visited have been severely damaged, thousands have perished or suffered injury, and tens of thousands of Syrians are refugees.”

In her artist’s statement, Chelsie Dwello writes, “For me photography is more than just taking pictures or making art.... I want to express the beauty and mystery that is present in all aspects of life, whether it’s something strange and exotic or just a child playing with pigeons in the park.”

Michelle Edland’s husband, Peter, explains her work in an artist impression: “Michelle is a mostly self-taught artist who is happiest when looking down, walking slowly upon a deserted beach with her pockets full of stones, shells and beach glass.... When she finds a smile, they hang on the living room wall to inspire her for her next journey.”

Other recent exhibits have included student artwork, landscape paintings, abstract art and more. Local artists of all ages and experience levels are invited to apply for future exhibits.

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