

Elements of De'VIA:

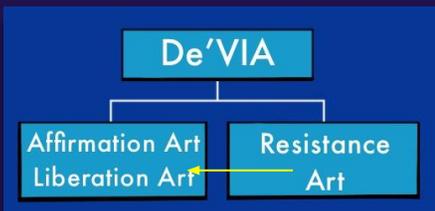
- Contrasting colors and values
- Bold use of colors
- Contrasting textures
- Centralized focus
- Exaggeration/emphasis on facial features
- Common motifs (hands, eyes, mouths, ears)



Understanding Deaf Culture by Nancy Rourke

De'VIA may also be created by deafened or hearing artists, if the intention is to create work that is born of their Deaf experience (a possible example would be a hearing child of Deaf parents). It is clearly possible for Deaf artists not to work in the area of De'VIA. ~ De'VIA Manifesto 1989

De'VIA often falls into two categories – resistance or affirmation. Resistance works expose the oppression and discrimination Deaf people experience because of audism and/or other -isms such as racism, sexism, heterosexism. Affirmation celebrates what it means to be Deaf. Sometimes works will show the evolution from resistance to affirmation and are recognized as liberation pieces—these pieces are still considered under the affirmation category.



Sign Union Flag

The Sign Union Flag was designed by Arnaud Balard in 2013 after several years of studying vexillology. The flag has a turquoise handshape to signify our natural sign languages, which binds us together as a community, and the yellow outline indicates light, hope, enlightenment and represents a hand upon a hand for protactile sign language. Dark blue represents humanity and Deafhood where audism is challenged and Deaf gain is celebrated. The sign Union flag has been raised at Deaf schools and in major cities around the world. For more information about the flag go to:

<https://surdistsunited.com/sign-union-flag-by-a-balard/>



Surdists United is a non-profit organization committed to social justice via Deaf centered creative expressions. For more info on Surdists United's Deaf related books and activities go to: <https://surdistsunited.com/>



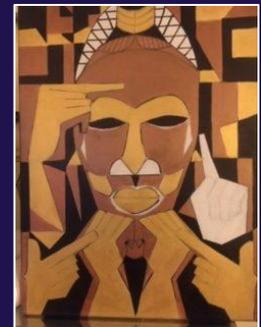
De'VIA and Surdism



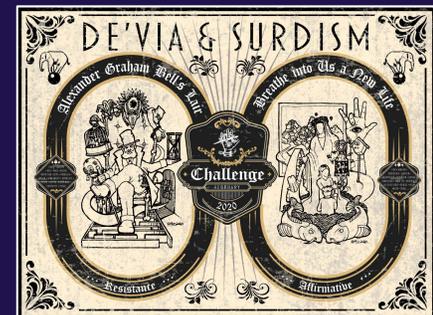
People of the Third Eye play



Birthday Girl by Laurie Monahan



Black (Deaf?) Lives Matter by Fred Beam



Vintage by Tony Nitko

De'VIA

What: Deaf View/Image Art = De'VIA.

A visual art movement intended to express Deaf experiences

Where: Washburn Arts Center.
Gallaudet University

When: 1989 before Deaf Way I

Why: A group of Deaf artists and scholars created a manifesto because they wanted to put a name to works about Deaf experiences

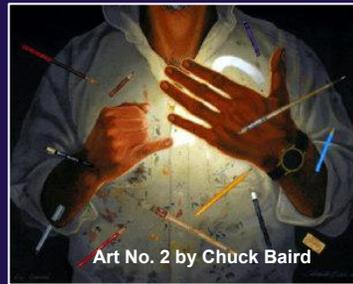
Who: a small group of Deaf artists & an art historian

Betty G Miller, Ed.D., painter; Paul Johnston, Ph.D., sculptor; Deborah M. Sonnenstrahl, Ph.D., art historian; Chuck Baird, painter; Guy Wonder, sculptor; Alex Wilhite, painter; Sandi Inches-Vasnick, fiber artist; Nancy Creighton, fiber artist; and Lai-Yok Ho, video artist.



Illustrated by Laurie Monahan

The inclusion of 'view' is important because it shows the works come from diverse Deaf points of view / perspectives / lived experiences. The term was abbreviated to De'VIA and the ' is a nod to ASL's Langue des Signes Francaise origins.



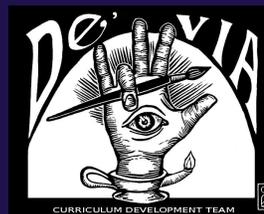
Betty G. Miller and Chuck Baird are often referred to as the Mother and Father of De'VIA because of their tireless and steadfast work in promoting De'VIA. Many other artists created works about Deaf experiences before De'VIA was coined or before they were aware of this art movement; such as: Ralph Miller, Ann Silver, Tony McGregor, Susan Dupor and more.

To see the De'VIA Manifesto, videos explaining motifs, infomon De'VIA artists, art lesson plan activities and Surdism manifesto go to:

<https://deviacurr.wordpress.com/>

To learn about more Deaf artists go to Deaf-art.org.

Logo designed by David Call



Surdism

What: collective movement to bring about social justice via artistic and literary expressions of Deaf experiences

Where: began in France but intended to be global

When: 2009

Why: need for ARTivism (artists engaging in activism) to bring about Deaf liberation

Who: Arnaud Balard, French DeafBlind artist who also created the Sign Union Flag in 2013

The term Surdism comes from the French word for Deaf = Sourd and "ism" as a school of thought / art movement (i.e. cubism, impressionism, expressionism, surrealism)

Surdism:

-is an international collective movement which carries a positive, constructive, militant and inclusive philosophy

-aims to gather all artists (sculpture, painting, photography, literature, signed poetry, cinema, theater, installations, videos...) to strengthen the focus on the existence of the Deaf world.

-claims that our movement carries creativity, inclusion, complementarity, and mutual enrichment.

-promotes artistic expression about, of and through Sign Language which serves a unifying social link

-not as something causing linguistic and cultural division.

Audism denigrates, Deafhood welcomes, Surdism reveals. ~ Surdism Manifesto 2009

The sign for Surdism is an index finger pointing at a 3rd eye and then pointing at an open palm.



Illustrated by Arnaud Balard