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Get rejuvenated about human rights

'I Have the Right: Free, Express, Dream, and Love' exhibit now on display.

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"I Have the Right: Free, Express, Dream, and Love," an exhibit presented by the Picture Art Foundation on campus, takes the viewer on a passage through the emotional and physical transitions of the struggle for human rights. Thematically structured, the art speaks to having the right of four sub themes of freedom, expression, dreams and love in whatever way one would choose.



Each piece in the exhibit brings you into the artist's space, as if you are invited to invade their privacy. As you make your way around the room, it feels as if you are shaking hands and being introduced to each artist through the use of texture, color and expression.

[\(/?q=content/%E2%80%9Cgandhi-abused%E2%80%9D-artist-simon-raab-one-47-pieces-display\)](#)

There are many ways to portray freedom. In the eyes of the oppressed it can mean many things. There are 47 pieces on freedom in the exhibit. Artist Simon Raab's gorgeous painting, "Gandhi Abused," of a battered Gandhi is made from polymers and aluminum on a wooden frame. Raab illustrates irony when it comes to one of history's most peaceful political leaders being abused. He uses contrast of colors to convey the violence that is more often the reaction to battling oppression.

The overall message from the right to expression is that despite the oppressive nature of those around you, individuals make the decision to sacrifice that right.

Get naked, write freely, embrace and let go in the honor of your own expressions. A sculpture of an older woman baring it all, "Carole," by Tanya Ragir, is the perfect example of the theme.

The right to dream is something we learn as children and abandon as adults. It isn't until you realize that dreaming is a healthy part of surviving reality that you begin to exercise the right to dream again.

In "Dreamers," a paper sculpture by artist Linda Serrao, three heads represent different races looking out to the world with hope for better futures.

The universal theme of love as a human right is one most of us are born into; it's in the warmth of our mothers. The exhibit introduces you to romantic love and the notion to love freely despite the things around you and be happy within your love.

Featured artist You Khin, born in Cambodia, has 18 pieces on display that share his insights on growing up in a time of war. Through his works you can share his desire to enjoy the right to life as well as the fights of the people who were unable to speak out or lash out because of fear.

In his painting "A Man With His Mask," you connect with this feeling of always having to be someone else so that everyone can be comfortable around you and at night, when no one is around and the mask comes off, all you have left is the real you, exhausted from putting on airs.

In "Opened Tsunami Book on the Beach," artist Khin exhibits the pain of the poor mothers who were hopeful yet helpless when it came to protecting their children.

The art flows so that by the time you have walked through the entire exhibit and met the artists you are inspired to join the campaign for the right of those you left in

the room—and your own rights as well.

“I Have the Right: Free, Express, Dream, and Love” will be on display through the summer. The Picture Cultural Art Center is located on the ground floor of the new library building.

For more information about the exhibit, contact James Scarborough at (310) 243-2359.

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