Art teachers from all over the United States flocked to California School for the Deaf to learn about its innovative Deaf View / Image Art curriculum taught by De’VIA artist David Call. The purpose of this week-long gathering was to develop a curriculum, lesson plans, and activities for students to learn about De’VIA art in the classroom.

Last year, a group of art teachers met at the Rochester Institute of Technology, in New York, to lay the groundwork for this new curriculum. But this year, a much larger group of De’VIA art teachers are finalizing the curriculum and making it available on the De’ARTivists United website where Deaf schools, as well as public schools, will have access to it.

Photographs by David Call, David Martin, and Paul Rosa
On Sunday, the art teachers were treated to a day in San Francisco where they rode a cable car to Market Street and saw CSD graduate Douglas Tilden’s famous sculpture The Mechanic. Later that day, they rode a trolley to eat at Mozzeria, a Deaf Italian restaurant.

Then on Monday, the teachers got a tour of the art on the California School for the Deaf campus. They saw impressive ASL hand sculptures in the elementary school; historical art in the museum; and murals painted by students all over campus. Many teachers wanted to follow CSD’s example and have their students paint murals on the walls of their own school campus.

For the rest of the week, the art teachers followed a rigorous schedule in order to accomplish their goal of developing a De’VIA curriculum. They started at 8:00 in the morning and worked until 10:00 at night. From early morning through lunch time, teachers would have in-depth discussions on what to include in their newly formed curriculum. The other big part of their work session was devoted to actually doing the projects they would be teaching. Each time David Call introduced a new art project, he would show a slideshow. The slideshows included the work of famous De’VIA artists, as well as photographs of students doing the exact same projects. Each day, the teachers did a different art activity.

Their first activity was an **ASL action hand painting** in the style of Jackson Pollock. The art teachers used the hand movement of an ASL sign to splatter paint on a canvas. They repeated this with several different colors to make their creation.

The next activity was an **ASL hand sculpture** in the style of Chuck Baird. They integrated an ASL handshape into a 3-D painting that illustrated what the sign meant.

The third activity was a Cubist **ASL kitchen table conversation** in the style of Pablo Picasso. They designed characters with meaningful handshapes.

The fourth activity illustrated a De’VIA **Deaf experience** using encaustic (hot wax) painting.
The Group
We loved our meals prepared by Debbie Call in the FEAST kitchen!

Barb Jack
The workshop was informative. I learned a lot. I wanted to learn as much as possible so that I could pass the information on to our students.

Peggy Gelaude
The workshop was awesome. We got so much wonderful information to pass on to our Deaf students. I grew up attending public schools where I experienced a lot of barriers. I truly value getting information and techniques that I can pass on to my Deaf students.

Taki Harris
Attending this workshop has enabled me to meet people from different backgrounds. It has helped me increase my knowledge and discover more resources. I’m looking forward to having this information available on our website.

Takako Kerns
The murals you have on the campus are so beautiful and colorful. Plus, they make it much easier to recognize the different buildings. I am looking forward to learning how to incorporate ASL handshapes into art pieces so that I can teach that activity to my students.

Christine Parrotte
Four of us art teachers attended the De’VIA workshop in Rochester last year where David Call was a guest presenter via videophone. After having taught De’VIA art in the classroom all last year, we were ready to come and learn more at this workshop so that we could take our teaching to the next level. Having so many art teachers attending this workshop gives us a chance to learn from one another. Not only do we plan to incorporate this new knowledge into our own classrooms at the Deaf schools, we also want to teach the public schools about De’VIA art so that they can be more understanding of Deaf culture and art—similarly to how they have already been learning about American Sign Language.
Several sponsors have made it possible to develop a national De’VIA curriculum including Convo VRS, the Parodi Charitable Trust, 501C3 support from Deaf Arts Festival, and California School for the Deaf.

The 18 De’VIA Teachers Attending

BONNIE ARNOLD
Maryland School for the Deaf

EMILY BLACHLY
Kendall School, Washington DC

KAREN CHRISTIE
NTID/RIT

AMY CONWAY
Alaska School for the Deaf

MARY CREGAN
Rocky Mountain Deaf School, Denver, CO

PATTI DURR
NTID/RIT

PEGGY GELAUDA
Michigan School for the Deaf

TAKIYAH HARRIS
Deaf Art Therapist, Chicago, Ill

TIFFANY HOG Lind
Indiana School for the Deaf

BART BARBARA JACK
Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind

HINDA KASHER
Deaf Art Education graduate, Rochester, NY

TAKAKO KERNS
Kansas School for the Deaf

MINDY MOORE
Texas School for the Deaf

CHRISTINE PARROTT
Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Wash DC

NANCY ROURKE
Professional DeVIA Artist: Artist in Residency

MARY SILVERSTRI SIMMONS
Learning Center for the Deaf, Boston, Mass

TINA-MARGARET STEELE
Virginia School for the Deaf

SCOTTY ZWICKER
Indiana School for the Deaf

Check out De^ARTivists United at devartivistunited.wordpress.com