



DEAF
CULTURE,
HERITAGE AND
DIVERSITY

Deaf Studies workshop

Deaf Art

Deaf arts and literature



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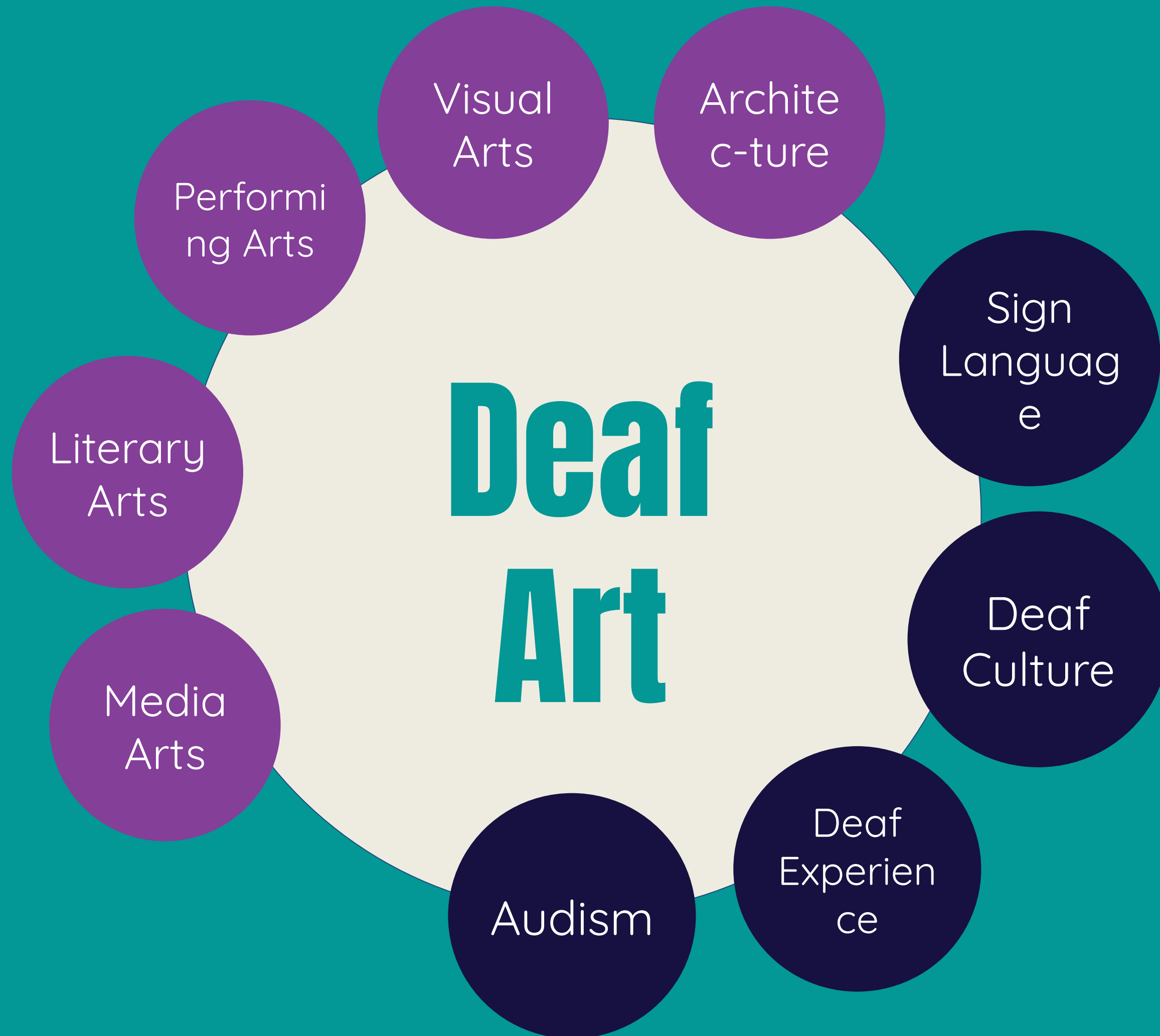


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What's Deaf Art?

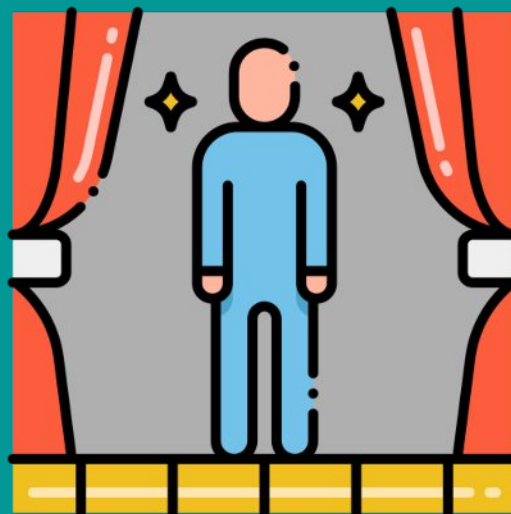


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Performing/Literature Arts

- Theater
- Performance art
- Dance
- Songs
- (Visual) Music
- ABC stories
- Number stories
- Nursery rhyme
- Poetry
- Visual Vernacular



- Jokes/Humor
- Fiction (novels, short stories, etc.)
- Comics
- etc.

You can include some examples (based on your country as well).



Media Arts

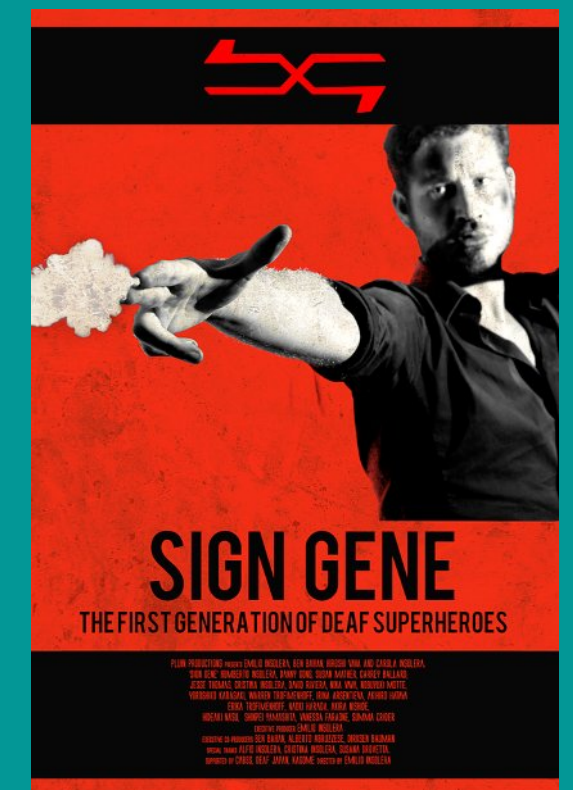
- Cinema
- Television
- Video art
- Animation
- Etc.



Coda - I segni del cuore di
Sian Heder (2021)



*Sign Gene: The
First Deaf
Superheroes* di
Emilio Insolera
(2017)



You can include some examples
(based on your country as well).



Cortometraggi di
Lumo.tv,
Deaf Funny (C.
Swinbourne, 2017)



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Architecture

- Building design
- Planning urban and landscape spaces



Deaf space design

<https://gallaudet.edu/campus-design-facilities/campus-design-and-planning/deafspace/>



DeafSpace Documentary,
Rachel Saputro



*How architecture changes
for the Deaf,* Vox

Visual Arts



- Painting
- Sculpture
- Drawing
- Photography
- Digital art
- Illustration
- etc.

You can include some examples
(based on your country as well).

Deaf Art

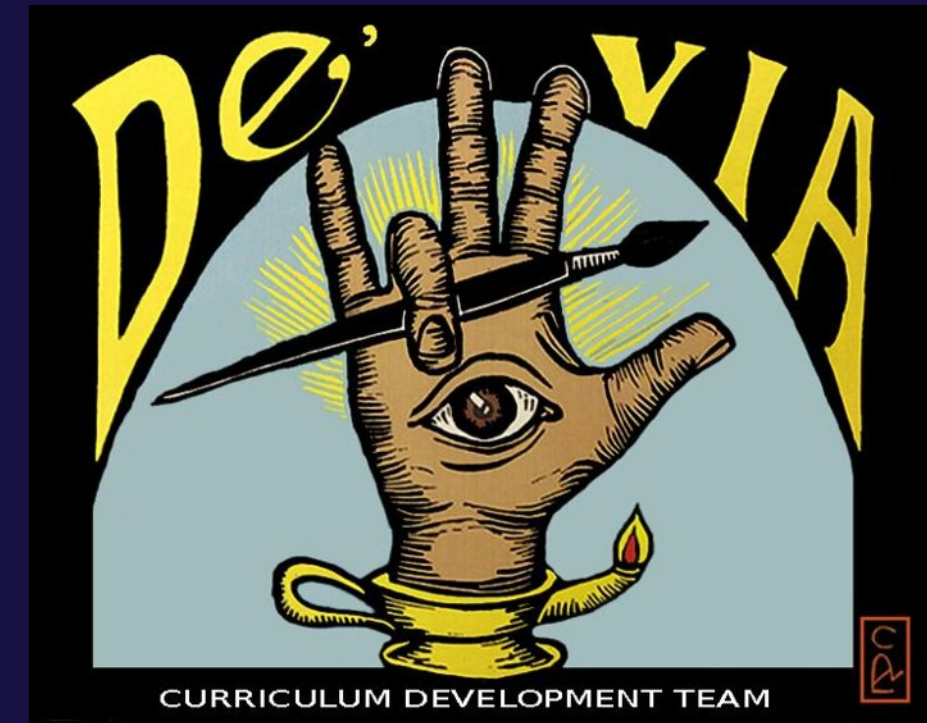
In the 20th century, particularly after the World Wars, Deaf artists began to focus more explicitly on themes related to deafness, the everyday experiences of being Deaf, Audism, the fight for rights, and the importance of sign language.

This trend gained significant momentum in the 1960s, especially in the United States.

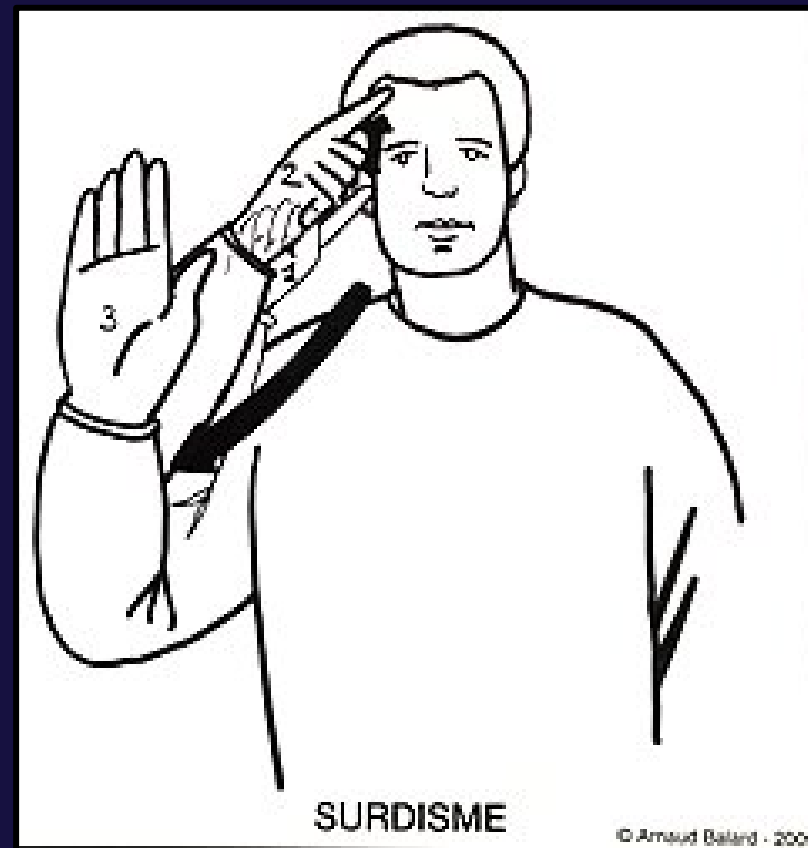


De' Via (Deaf View/Image Art)

USA, 1989



Logo "De' Via Curriculum
Development Team"
by David Call



Surdism

France, 2009



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De'VIA (Deaf View/Image Art)

De'VIA is an art movement that examines and expresses the experiences of Deaf people from cultural, linguistic, and intersectional perspectives. It was born from a group of artists just before the Deaf Way Festival in 1989.

The Four Elements of De'VIA:

- **De**: Expression of *affirmation, resistance*, and liberation for Deaf and DeafBlind individuals.
- **V**: The Deaf and DeafBlind perspective and their way of living in the world.
- **I**: Images, motifs, and symbols representing the Deaf experience (visualization).
- **A**: Art, activism, aesthetics, and authentic expression of the Deaf experience.



De' VIA - Motifs

- Hands, Eyes, Mouths, Ears
- Children
- Animals (dogs, birds, butterflies, moths, fish, horse, elephant)
- Nature (trees, flowers, especially sunflowers and dandelions, waves or mountain)
- Doors as portals or obstacles
- Musical reference for ASL (scores, notes, instruments)
- Masks, puppets, dolls, robots
- Street signage, mirrors, light bulb, bell, glove, blue tape, bridge, hammer, CI, stockades, cross, key
- Chains, gird, jail, rope, barbed wire, hooks
- Many more...

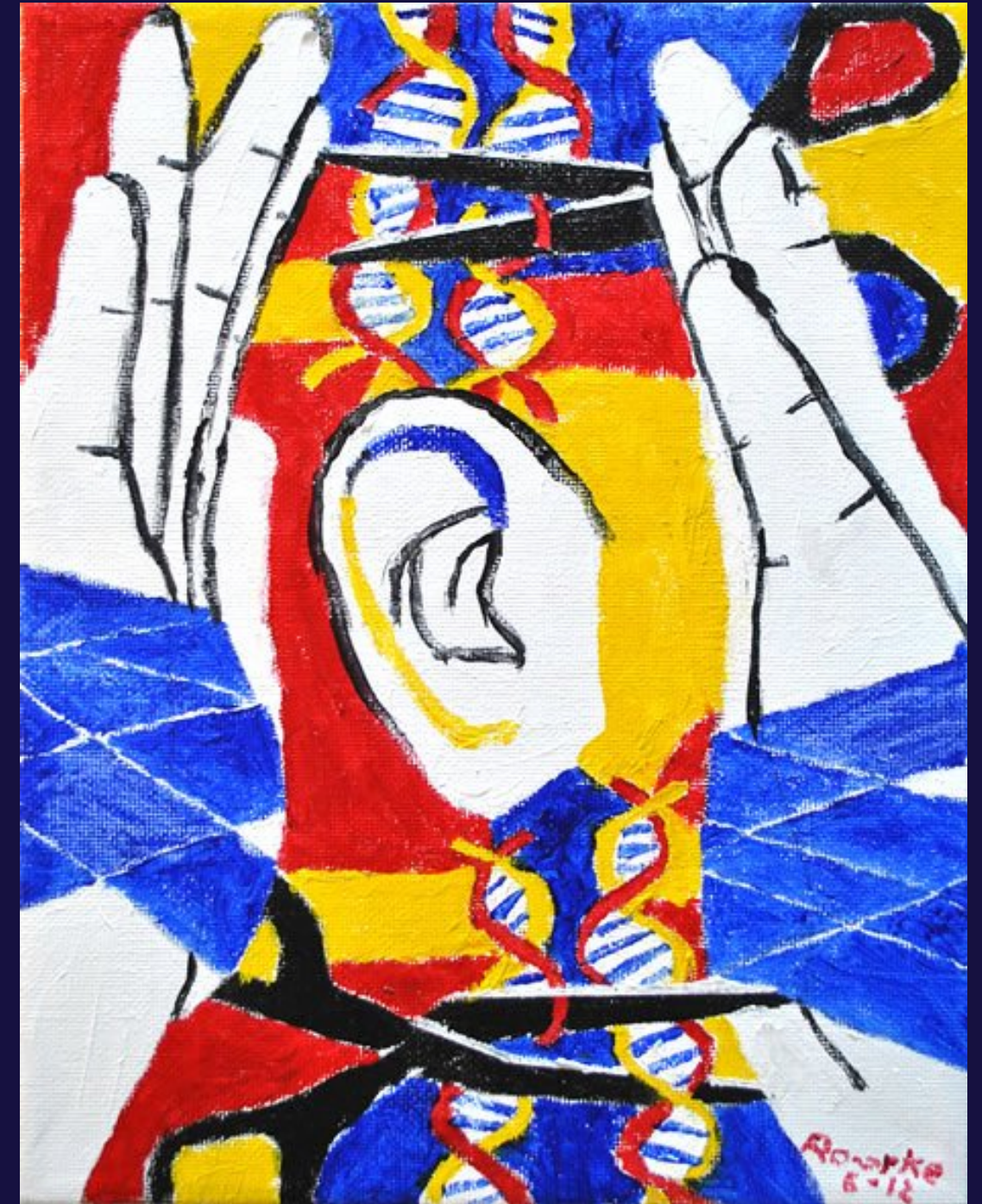
De'VIA



Bell School 1944,
Betty G. Miller (1972)

<https://deaf-art.org/deaf-art/devia-posters/>

Man Made Hearing,
Nancy Rourke (2012)



Understanding De'Via Work by Nancy Rourke: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RmaBaQHgiw>
Interviews: <https://youtu.be/6Og4BMcp3WA>
<https://youtu.be/tA807S8730o>

Surdism

The **Surdism** Manifesto was created by French Deafblind artist and activist – **Arnaud Balard** in 2009 at the 20th anniversary of De'VIA – despite Arnaud having no knowledge or exposure to Deaf View/Image Art De'VIA.



Arnaud Balard, in <https://deaf-art.org/profiles/arnaud-balard/#>

The Surdism Manifesto is a similar assertion of visual art that is unique to the **Deaf experience** and it expands to include **other genres of cultural expression** such as: film, theatre, literature (signed and written). It also includes terms and concepts such as *audism* and *Deafhood* and calls for an activist component to Deaf-themed art making (ie **ARTivism**).



<https://surdistsunited.com/>

A non-profit collective of visual artists, filmmakers, poets, storytellers, writers, and performers committed to creating art about Deaf experiences and social justice through ARTivism.



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Group
Activity

Video “Deaf Artivists”

Discussion and final reflections



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**Extra
Individual
Activity**

Express your Deaf experience through Art



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Extra Group Activity

Choose a Deaf artist and do research!

You can choose an artist from <https://deaf-art.org/artists/>



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References

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De'VIA Curriculum, <https://deviacurr.wordpress.com/>

Durr P. (2006), *De'VIA: Investigating deaf visual art*, RIT Scholar Works, Rochester Institute of Technology. In <https://scholarworks.rit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1424&context=article>

Folchi, A. and Rossetti, R. (2007). *Il colore del silenzio. Dizionario biografico internazionale degli artisti sordi*. Electa.

Holcomb, T. K. (2023). *Introduction to Deaf culture*. 2nd edition. Oxford University Press. <http://www.introductiontodeafculture.com/intro-to-deaf-culture.html>

Leighty R. (2020), “*Surdism - What's That?*” on *Deaf Artists* in <https://deafartists.wordpress.com/2020/02/04/surdism-whats-that/>

Rit Libraries, *Deaf Artists and De'VIA*, in <https://infoguides.rit.edu/deafart>

Surdists United, <https://surdistsunited.com/>



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TURKOOIS



Innosign

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ISTITUTO DEI SORDI
DI TORINO