



## Hour Exchange Portland

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### *Peace-ful Summer at June's First Friday Art Walk*

**Portland, Maine** – Hour Exchange Portland (HEP) is pleased present its peace-themed art exhibit and SHOPPE event at the TIME Gallery, (CTN), 516 Congress Street during the First Friday Art Walk on June 4th from 5:00 to 8:00pm. This event is free and open to the public with food, fun, and art exhibit and sale by Christine Cote and crafts by Portland's immigrant and refugee community affiliated with Catholic Charities of Maine.

Christine Cote says, "The process of photography helps me satisfy my need for creative expression, my desire to explore fragments of the world's visual landscape, and my search for stillness. With my camera in hand or stuffed in my backpack, I set out on a mission of discovery. I use my camera as a tool to explore visual objects, subjects, or scenes. With tremendous focus, I take these visual fragments into my mind's eye for a moment and hold them and myself still while taking photographs. Photography gives me a unique view of the world around me, and there is great joy in passing this view on to others."

The event will also kick off Hour Exchange Portland's *Spring into Summer* On-line Auction Preview and *FUN-draiser*. It has summer-themed goods and services from local HEP members, merchants and entrepreneurs that give both locals and visitors opportunities to enjoy this summer in Maine. The bidding lasts until June 21<sup>st</sup>, the first official day of summer, until 8pm. On-line auction site is located at [www.BiddingForGood.com/HEP](http://www.BiddingForGood.com/HEP).

Many local businesses will be featured and able to reach thousands of new customers by participating in this auction. A focus on local small businesses may help to stimulate the local economy. Through our events and partnerships with Community Television Network (Ch.5) and Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance (PACA), Hour Exchange Portland works with local artists, crafters, musicians and small business owners to help build new opportunities within the creative economy. In its 4<sup>th</sup> year of operations, the TIME Gallery has helped hundreds of *Culture Creatives* reach new audiences and inject thousands of dollars into the local economy.

All proceeds benefit Hour Exchange Portland, a membership organization where services are exchanged through the currency of time. Members utilize the skills and talents they choose to share in exchange for services they want or need in return. These exchanges enhance the lives of members by building new relationships and strengthening our community. Hour Exchange Portland prides itself in connecting members of the community through its own unique, thriving community currency. Note: Also, all donations to HEP, a 501 C 3, are fully tax- deductible.

**WHERE:** TIME Gallery at CTN Studios, 516 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101

**WHAT:** Peace-themed Art Exhibit and Sale with *Spring into Summer* On-line Auction Preview

**WHEN:** Friday, June 4th, 2010 from 5pm – 8:00pm.