

THE SCARLET CORD

Healing for Sex-Trafficked Children



The Scarlet Cord Pop-up Gallery Artist & Facilitator Pamela Alderman

The Scarlet Cord: Healing for Sex-trafficked Children reveals the deception that enslaves innocent children caught in sex trafficking—our modern day slavery. The twisting scarlet cord depicts the trauma bond that connects the children to their traffickers. The weathered doors represent these abused children whose youthful minds have become knotted like old wood. The artwork—dedicated to these suffering children—calls for compassionate action through interactive art. Recently, *The Scarlet Cord* Pop-up Gallery, a mini installation, was created to expand the original mission: Freedom and healing for boys and girls trafficked worldwide.

healinginarts.org

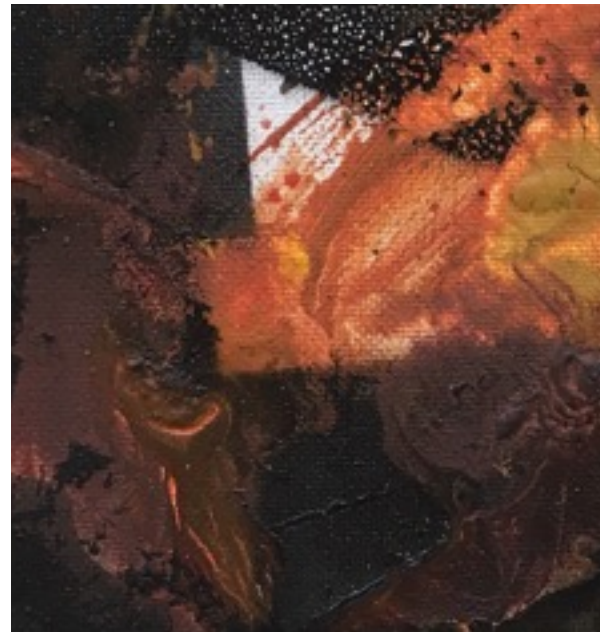


NIGHT CRIES

Night Cries, part of *The Scarlet Cord Pop-up Gallery*, is a creative response to the tears and groans of the survivors of sex crimes. Voice actors recorded actual sentences from the victims artist Pamela Alderman encountered. Then a videographer turned the recordings into audio sound waves. A collection of abstract paintings have been interpreted from audio sound waves. The work—highlighting the laments of individuals in peril—invites action. We can no longer ignore the cries of those enslaved in the sex industry. A collective response from a caring community is needed to help end trafficking.

BLINDED

Gender biases can blind us in the predominant sex-trafficking narrative when we imagine only female victims and male perpetrators. But boys comprise about 50 percent of sexually exploited children, according to a 2008 study done by John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Girls, however, typically receive most of the press and aftercare. To create *Blinded*, Pamela Alderman literally wore a blindfold while throwing and splattering paint onto the canvases. Only after uncovering her eyes did she discover a new visual language that revealed pain and loss. Similarly, our cultural blinders make it difficult for vulnerable male victims to reveal their souls to expose nefarious activity. *Blinded* seeks to uncover the truth and help heal both female—and male—survivors.



LIFEWORDS

Words matter. For many children trapped in sex trafficking, word wounds like “You’re worthless,” “Your life is in ruins,” “Nobody wants you”—from those who are supposed to love and protect them—play over and over in their heads like a vinyl record. Many, as a result, turn to drugs and alcohol to numb the hurt. *LifeWords* from *The Scarlet Cord Pop-up Gallery* invites individuals to write healing affirmation words on note cards and tie them on the *LifeTree* panels for the Manasseh Project’s sex-trafficking survivors. Words like “You’re valuable,” “You are beautiful,” “I love you” help heal the soul.