For those of you that missed the story on CBC Saskatchewan morning show last Friday, here is an audio file of the story. Please see below for the English transcript.

CE: My name is Chrystene Ells and I'm one of the artists-in-residence with the Thom Collegiate Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. I've forgotten exactly how we came up with the idea of a forest but I think it came from the students. We asked them to do abstract paintings. What does the hearing world look like? What's it feel like to you? What is the hard of hearing world feel like and what does the Deaf world feel like?

(music: with your eyes closed, close your eyes)

CE: It was really remarkable how, in the hearing world a lot of the Deaf students feel really bored. They don't feel angry, they don't feel frustrated, they just feel bored because people's mouths are moving and they're not included and they don't know what happening and they're just sitting there, and they have to wait for the hearing people to finish talking. So they decided that the hearing forest would be this place of white trees and masks that are kind of sleeping or silent and hands that are photographs of hands that are in pockets or are still and not moving and that's to share with the world their experience in the hearing forest.

CE: The Hard of Hearing Forest is a kind of a scary walk through dark trees in a dark Forest that we're going to create the middle of the gallery where things disappear in the shadows things are lost. Bits and pieces of sounds come and go. You can sort of hear and but you sort of can't hear so it's actually kind of a scary place.

(music: something unknown is doing we don't know what. That is what our knowledge amounts to).

CE: And then when they painted the Deaf world, really across-the-board all of the paintings were full of color. They were expressive they had tons of really different round, friendly kinds of shapes in them and butterflies and all this different kind of really welcoming sort of colors and shapes in the painting and they were explaining that when they're in the deaf Community they can really communicate, they can connect with everybody in the room. You know there's engagement and there's welcoming and there's stuff happening all around them. It's not boring, it's really interesting. And so the teacher and I decided to try and help these students to recreate these abstract paintings as spaces in a gallery.

MG: My name is Michelle Grodecki. I am a teacher of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing at Thom Collegiate, so, I will be voicing for our Deaf & Hard of Hearing students.

FN: My name is Fatima. I'm in grade 11 and I'm 15 years old. Art's really changed my life. It doesn't matter if I'm hearing or Hard of Hearing or Deaf, it's helping me to express my feelings and my experiences. I'm really hoping that hearing people and hard of hearing people will see it doesn't really matter who you are. That hearing people they're no more important that Deaf people. We're all humans. We all have blood. Deaf people have read blood and hearing people have red blood and so we're all the same, we're all equal. So that's what I want people get from this exhibit. I don't want them to think they're better, I want them to understand we're all the same.

CE: I've worked a lot with marginalized communities, at-risk Kids in San Francisco and seniors, people living with HIV in San Francisco in the early days of the epidemic. I've done a lot of art in all of these different marginalized communities but I've never seen a more marginalized community than the deaf

community. They're a really invisible minority. So watching these young Deaf people go from this real isolation and a fear of the world and all that kind of withdrawn sort of almost living in a closet or a bubble into coming out and taking on the world and sharing their stories and their voices and seeing how that has changed not only each of them individually, but also them as a community. I've never seen such huge changes as I have with this art project.

http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1059828291665