



**For Immediate Release**

October 2, 2006

**Ice House Cultural Center presents**  
**“Côte à Côte: Mardi Gras in the Wake of Disaster”**  
*Photography Exhibit by Elliot Snedden*

The Ice House Cultural Center proudly presents a special photo exhibit titled “Côte à Côte: Mardi Gras in the Wake of Disaster” by Elliot Snedden from October 10 to 26, 2006. There will be an artist reception on Saturday, October 14, 2006 from 7 to 9 p.m. The reception and exhibit are free and open to the public. Côte à Côte is the native Cajun speaking phrase meaning “Side by Side”.

The exhibit depicts the events of August 29th 2006 when Hurricane Katrina made landfall near New Orleans Louisiana. With reconstruction and rebuilding still hardly underway, Mayor Ray Nagin along with the City of New Orleans, made the controversial decision to go ahead with the 2006 Mardi Gras festival, as an effort to show the resilience of the Big Easy. The 24”x36” diptych giclee prints on display were captured between February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 in New Orleans and the neighboring cities of Houma, Covington, and Slidell, LA.

“Six months since the disaster I visited the famously eclectic city of New Orleans during the first Mardi Gras festival since Katrina”, said Mr. Snedden.

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“My intention was to visually document the state of the Crescent City during the festival and to highlight the duality of a city torn. One thing that struck me the most was how little seemed to have been accomplished in those six months, and how inappropriate the ongoing response by FEMA and the American Red Cross was.”

“I feel that the Ice House Cultural Center would serve as an ideal space for the viewing of these prints for its degree of environmental character. Unlike other all white sterile environments which are often ideal for more abstract work. This work is intended to feel cluttered, urban, suburban, and anything but sterile. The Ice House, much like the neighborhood the photographs were made in, feels well established and community based”, commented Elliott Snedden.

**Location and Hours**

The Ice House Cultural Center is part of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and provides a Latino – focused venue to promote arts and cultural events that reflect the diversity of Oak Cliff and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Ice House Cultural Center is sponsored in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts. Public programs at the Ice House Cultural Center are supported by Target Stores.

The Ice House Cultural Center. 1004 W. Page Street – Dallas, Texas, 75208, located one block south of 12<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of Page and Polk Streets (MAPSCO page 54-F).

The center is open Tuesday to Friday from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. The center is closed on Sunday and Monday.

For more information about the Ice House Cultural Center please call 214-670-7524.