

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLOVES OFF! FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Female boxers of Gleason's Gym donate proceeds of Mosaic Art to 'Girls for Gender Equity'

(Brooklyn, NY) - Mosaic Artist Grace Baley and a group of female boxers from world famous boxing gym, Gleason's, will take off their gloves for a special cause during the 13th annual D.U.M.B.O Art Under the Bridge Festival on September 26-27th.

"As a mosaic artist I find inspiration all around me. I love the challenge of creating images and designs with pieces of glass," said Grace Baley, "building one unified piece by using a bunch of smaller units and seeing it all come together beautifully is what excites me. It's so similar to how I feel when I box. So bringing my two worlds together was the perfect combination."

The 12-year veteran artist, Baley, opened up her studio to 15 female boxers to try their hand at creating beautiful glass mosaics. The total proceeds, 100%, of the mosaic sales will be donated to Brooklyn-based community group Girls for Gender Equity (GGE), an organization committed to the physical, psychological, social and economic development of girls and women.

Baley said, "Gleason's Gym attracts people from all walks of life and unites us with one common goal...love for boxing. I rounded up female boxers from Gleason's to join me in this project because of how closely we relate to the importance of removing gender barriers in sports and society. Additionally, many of us would not have reached our successes in life without having been involved in athletics and Girls for Gender Equity shares our passion."

Through education and physical fitness, GGE encourages communities and creates hope for girls and women to live self-determined lives. Some of GGE's programs include the Urban Leaders Academy as well as After-School fitness program that include boxing, basketball and soccer.

"The contribution to Girls for Gender Equity means opportunities for young people to thrive as individuals and build community as a whole. Grace Baley and her artists, represent the spirit of sisterhood and solidarity that strengthens Brooklyn communities. We're excited and honored to be weaved into the Annual Dumbo Arts Festival in this way," said Joanne Smith, Executive Director of GGE.

Located in Gleason's Gym, "Grace Baley Mosaic Art presents Gloves Off!" will showcase the female boxers mosaic art during the two-day festival from 12pm-8pm each day.

The female athletes from Gleason's Gym represent amateur and professional boxers including 3-time Professional Boxing World Champion Alicia Ashley along with Alexis Asher, Grace Baley, Christina Beckles, Camille Currie, Jennifer Czirr, Rochelle Feinstein, Emily Kramer, Mya Marquis, Keisher McLeod-Wells, Angela Querol, Kimberly Tomes, Toni Thompson, Jane Wallentas and Melody Yam.

Visit www.gracebaley.com for more information about Grace Bailey Mosaic Art and www.ggenyc.org for information on Girls for Gender Equity.

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