

**The
Norwegian
Resource
System
for
Persons with
Deafblindness**

DEAFBLINDNESS

Deafblindness is a distinct disability. Deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing disability. It limits activities of a person and restricts full participation in society to such a degree that society is required to facilitate specific services, environmental alterations and/or technology (The Nordic Definition of Deafblindness, 2007).

The limitations and restrictions are particularly prevalent in the areas of:

- Communication and social interaction
- Acquisition of information
- Spatial orientation and moving around freely

There is a distinction between congenital and acquired deafblindness:

- **Congenital deafblindness:**
 - When the combined vision and hearing disability is present at birth
 - When the combined vision and hearing disability occurs before language is developed
- **Acquired deafblindness:**
 - When the combined vision and hearing disability occurs after language is developed
 - When the vision disability is congenital/ acquired early in life and the hearing disability emerges later
 - When the hearing disability is congenital/ acquired early in life and the vision disability emerges later
 - When the combined vision and hearing disability emerges later

Causes of deafblindness:

- Rare syndromes and diseases which entail both vision and hearing disability
- Trauma/infections and diseases which affect both vision and hearing
- Genetic factors

Deafblindness is a rare disability. About 500 persons are users of The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness.

THE NORWEGIAN RESOURCE SYSTEM FOR PERSONS WITH DEAFBLINDNESS

The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness is part of the specialist health care service in Norway. It consists of four regional resource centres, two resource centres with nationwide services and a coordinating unit. All of these are affiliated with The South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority through formal agreements. The resource system collaborates with municipal and county-based service providers and is a part of a comprehensive and interdisciplinary service provision.

The target group for The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness is persons with rare, congenital and early acquired conditions entailing deafblindness, as well as their family members and professionals across sectors. When the combination of severe vision and hearing disability/ deafblindness occurs due to age-related factors, the resource system assists the municipal service by offering information and training courses.

The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness aims to:

- Contribute to equal access to services for persons with deafblindness
- Meet the needs for services that are not currently met by regular service providers
- Contribute to the users' being able to cope and function well in daily life
- Provide assistance to the ordinary service providers in order to improve services for persons with deafblindness and their family members

Measures implemented may include:

- Functional and medical assessments
- Advice and counseling
- Training courses and information
- Research and development work
- Facilitating contact among persons with deafblindness

THE REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

In co-operation with the municipalities, the regional resource centres share a particular responsibility in their respective regions to provide follow-up services for persons with deafblindness. The regional resource centres welcome direct enquiries from the users, their family members and professionals. They perform assessments and provide advice, counseling and training. They provide information about deafblindness, offer advice on relevant services and inform about the legal rights of persons with deafblindness.

Regional Resource Centre for Persons with Deafblindness, University Hospital Northern Norway

Gimlevei 68, N-9019 Tromsø, Norway

Phone no: + 47 77 75 58 30 - Fax no: + 47 77 75 58 49

E-mail: regionsenteretDB@unn.no

Web: <http://www.unn.no/regionsenter-for-doevblinde/category21655.html>

Regional Resource Centre for Persons with Deafblindness, Statped Vest

P.O. Box 6039, Bergen postterminal, N-5892 Bergen, Norway

Phone no: + 47 55 92 34 00 - Fax no: + 47 55 92 35 51

E-mail: stadpedvest@statped.no

Web: www.statped.no/moduler/templates/Module_Article.aspx?id=19251

Regional Resource Centre for Persons with Deafblindness, Andebu Døvblindesenter

Molandveien 44, N-3158 Andebu, Norway

Phone no: + 47 33 43 87 00 - Fax no: + 47 33 43 87 20

E-mail: adb@signo.no

Web : www.andebudovblindesenter.no

**Regional Resource Centre for Persons with Deafblindness,
Skådalen Resource Centre**

Fridtjof Nansens vei 14, N-0369 Oslo, Norway

Phone no: + 47 22 70 37 00 - Fax no: + 47 22 46 22 00

E-mail: skadalen@statped.no

Web : www.statped.no/moduler/Module_FrontPage.aspx?id=58096

RESOURCE CENTRES WITH NATIONWIDE SERVICES

Eikholt National Resource Centre for the Deafblind offers rehabilitation courses, training in alternative communication modes and in information and communication technology (ICT). The centre also offers courses and services tailored to the individual, as well as training courses for professionals. In addition, the centre is a meeting place for persons with deafblindness, their family members and professionals.

Eikholt National Resource Centre for the Deafblind

Helen Kellers vei 3, N-3031 Drammen, Norway

Phone no: + 47 32 88 90 50 - Fax no: + 47 32 88 90 52

E-mail: post@eikholt.no

Web: www.eikholt.no

Huseby Resource Centre for Persons with Visual Impairment performs interdisciplinary assessments of vision in persons with deafblindness.

Huseby Resource Centre

Gamle Hovsetervei 3, N-0768 Oslo, Norway

Phone no: + 47 22 02 95 00 - Fax no: + 47 22 92 15 90

E-mail: huseby@statped.no

Web : www.statped.no/huseby



THE COORDINATING UNIT

The Coordinating Unit aims to:

- Coordinate the activities within The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness
- Contribute to extended co-operation with the users' organizations
- Contribute to increased dissemination of information
- Contribute to increased research and development work
- Contribute to network building
- Give advice

The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness - The Coordinating Unit

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Fax no: + 47 23 01 63 03

E-mail: dovblindhet@uus.no

The Norwegian National Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness has a shared webpage: www.dovblindhet.no

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee for The Norwegian Resource System for Persons with Deafblindness is a forum for participation and advisory coordination at a system level. The committee consists of representatives from the users' organizations, the commissioner for the resource system, The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration and the resource centres for persons with deafblindness. The Coordinating Unit functions as secretariat.

ORGANISATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DEAFBLINDNESS

The Norwegian Association of the Deafblind

- including the section for parents and siblings

P.O. Box 5922, Majorstua,

N-0308 Oslo, Norway

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+ 47 22 93 33 55

Fax no: + 47 22 93 33 51

E-mail: fndbadm@online.no

Info@ffdb.no

Web : www.fndb.no

The Norwegian Association for Combined Visual and Hearing Impairment/Deafblind

Skippergata 33,

N-0154 Oslo, Norway

Phone no: + 47 22 41 34 24

Mobile phone no: + 47 95 94 93 57

E-mail: kontor@lshdb.no

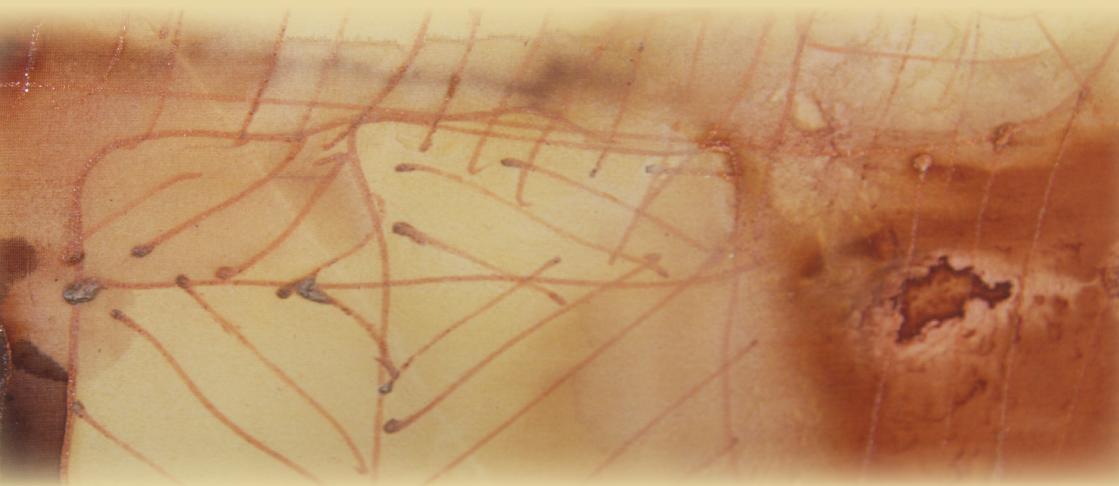
www.lshdb.no

About the artist:

Gry Jeanett Segerblad creates works of art using silk, lino print and stone, among other media, and her art has been displayed both in Norway and abroad.

Gry has congenital deafblindness.





www.dovblindhet.no