

For Immediate Release

**Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center &
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center
OPEN**

**— *IN HER HANDS* GALLERY —
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAOLA GIANTURCO
FROM
*In Her Hands: Craftswomen Changing the World***

On April 15th, 2008, the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center had its Grand Opening at the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland California. The \$13.5 million 11,000-square-foot Center provides seamless delivery of screening and diagnostic procedures, all in one location and is destined to become the preeminent breast care resource for women in the East Bay.

Receiving unanimous awe and wonder is the *In Her Hands* Gallery, consisting of twenty framed original photographs that were generously donated to the Center by local international photographer Paola Gianturco. These photographs were previously exhibited at The Field Museum/Chicago, the UN, the U.S. Senate, 415 Sansome Gallery/San Francisco, and the San Jose Art Museum.

The photographs are from the book, *In Her Hands: Craftswomen Changing the World*, which *The New York Times* heralded as, “this richly beautiful collection of photos and stories.” Referring to the book as a “glorious celebration,” the *Chicago Sun Times* says, “The kaleidoscope of photographs is truly amazing...[they] succeed at bringing these women to life.”

Dr. Ira “Buz” Kanter, co-founder, associate director and director of imaging at the Breast Center, and devoted admirer of Paola as an artist and a human being spoke at the Grand Opening. He quoted from Paola’s book *In Her Hands*:

“This gallery ‘celebrates a different kind of women's movement—one in which mothers, grandmothers, sisters, and friends join together to make beautiful crafts that contribute to a better life for themselves and for future generations.’ This is the perfect metaphor for the mission of this Breast Center. We are immensely grateful and honored to permanently display these works as an inspiration to all the women who come to the Center as it contributes to the early detection of Breast Cancer and a better life for women now and in the future.”

Interior designer Jain Malkin was enlisted to ensure the breast center complex became the beautiful, welcoming space it was intended to be.

“The Carol Ann Read Breast Center celebrates women in their diversity of culture, their accomplishments, and their contributions to their communities. Paola’s photographs of women at work in distant cultures helps to convey this message. The vibrant colors, the indigenous clothing, and the focus on the women’s faces capture your attention as you pass by them. The fact that the women are working in fiber and textiles connects their lives metaphorically as if by a thread that binds them despite the geographical distance that separates them.”

—Jain Malkin, Healthcare Interior Designer

Author, *A Visual Reference for Evidence-Based Design*

The Center’s main corridors are full of color, light and crafts—including splendid quilts and hand blown original glass pieces—and the *In Her Hands* images bring into the space, the spirit of women around the world...from Turkey, Guatemala, India, Thailand and more.

The *In Her Hands* gallery is particularly appropriate in this context since the Center will serve 50,000 multicultural women who live in Northern California, and patients may just discover that their heritage is represented in these images.

For pictures of the opening, see: http://www.herhands.com/scrapbook_sutter.html

For information about purchasing the book *In Her Hands*, please visit:
<http://www.herhands.com/order.html>

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