**Silent Emotions**

American Sign Language is a form of communication in the United States but most people and by that I mean most hearing people don’t see it that way. It seems that most hearing people see deafness as a handicap and are always looking for ways to correct it. The deaf community has a different view on being deaf and creates self-identities with it. In this form of communication the use their hands and body to talk about their every day life to express how they are is critical.

That’s how I came up with an idea to share with hearing people the true art of sign language and its importance to the deaf identify. Using photography to change the view on deaf community for people that don’t understand. By having each person come into a studio setting for lighting technique, which gives a glow to the person. Then having a little slow shutter speed to have moment in each image.

Capture the moments that most people can’t see throughout a communication between two people using ASL. Showing one person and the other person is you trying to see what this deaf person wants to say to the world about themselves and others. Ask yourself what are they saying then try to find out on your own what it means. When we sit thinking about what the signs means and how to communicate it can prove to be difficult, however it goes the same way for a deaf person who is trying to figure out verbal speech as well.

**Photographer**: Weston Alan Smith

**Email** [oneoakstudio@gmail.com](mailto:oneoakstudio@gmail.com)