



Reflections

The ArtWorks Newsletter

Spring 2015



A Visit to the Museum

ArtWorks Faculty

The Arts: Not Just Nice

A Letter from the Director

What is ArtWorks?

ArtWorks is an aesthetic education program for public school students that pairs artists with teachers and offers students live experiences with works of art — artist-led tours of museum exhibits and performances by some of Santa Fe’s finest performing arts organizations.

ArtWorks was started in 2001 by the Santa Fe Arts Commission and is now a program of Partners in Education Foundation. The program serves approximately 50 teachers in public elementary schools in Santa Fe and the entire faculty of Nava Elementary School.

Using a teaching methodology developed at Lincoln Center Institute in New York City, ArtWorks’ faculty of teaching artists — musicians, actors, dancers, poets and visual artists — deliver over 300 classroom workshops a year.

The workshops align with curriculum goals and provide students with personally meaningful interactions with professional works of art as well as opportunities to express themselves through diverse artistic media.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of ArtWorks for students is the opportunity to work with real artists in their classrooms. ArtWorks teaching artists bring energy and enthusiasm that inspire curiosity and creativity — welcome additions to their test-driven school lives.

For more information about the Partners in Education Foundation and ArtWorks go to sfpartnersineducation.org.

Sincerely,



Kristin Watson, ArtWorks Program Director

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Cover: An ArtWorks student reflects on The Rabbit Hunter by Oscar Berninghaus at the New Mexico Museum of Art. Photo by Christopher Watson.



ArtWorks is a program of the Partners in Education Foundation for the Santa Fe Public Schools. Partners is an independent non-profit foundation organization founded on the conviction that the entire community shares the benefits of and responsibility for the quality of public education. Our mission is to marshal resources and create alliances to foster excellence in Santa Fe’s public schools.

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Students Inspired by a Visit to the Museum

by Sabrina Pratt

If you were downtown in December, you might have seen school children arriving on a yellow school bus at the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts. Would you expect them to be a bunch of wiggly, loud kids, more interested in each other than the art?

the portraits don't have to look like the person, but rather be a personal expression of the person, expressed through abstraction, symbolism, metaphor and unusual colors

6th graders, sketchbooks in hand, were met by ArtWorks Teaching Artist Gregory Gutin. They had already worked with him in their classroom, where they learned about Expressionist/Fauvist movements of the early 20th century and practiced gesture drawing. At the museum, they discovered Gendron's ability to capture the shape and energy of his subjects. Gutin told them about Gendron's family history in the northwestern U.S.

Not these kids. They were looking forward to seeing the work of Native American painter Ric Gendron. Acequia Madre Elementary art teacher Katy Hees and her



An artist points to his work at the Art is Core: ArtWorks Works! exhibit at the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission's Community Gallery. Photo by Ruthanne Greeley.

Looking at his self-portraits and portraits of family members, they discussed his drawing and painting techniques and use of symbols and color. Some students were interested in finding symbols used throughout his work.

Others reacted to his mix of animal and human body parts. There was also time for pulling the sketchbooks out and examining a favorite painting up close.

There were three more meetings of the art class

back in the classroom to further explore these themes and create self-portraits. Part of Gutin's lesson was about "how the portraits don't have to look like the person, but rather be a personal expression of the person, expressed through abstraction, symbolism, metaphor and unusual colors." The students were challenged to use symbols, show themselves as part animal, and use paint and other media. Hees felt that as a result of the use of mixed media "a lot of the pieces turned out to be really powerful."



Santa Fe Mayor Javier M. Gonzales congratulates ArtWorks students on their work in the Art is Core: ArtWorks Works! exhibit at the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission's Community Gallery. Photo by Ruthanne Greeley.

This class' colorful and self-reflective imagery were featured in an exhibit titled "Art is Core: ArtWorks Works!" at the Santa Fe Arts Commission's Community Gallery, in February. The student exhibit title refers to the connection between the study of artistic work and the Common Core standards. Gutin and Hees emphasized speaking and listening, two of the Common Core standards, as they guided the students to express and share their ideas about the exhibit.

At the last meeting with Gutin, the 6th graders continued to work on these standards by sharing their completed work with each other. Gutin was pleased that "many of them commented on the personal process they experienced and how they came to better know both other students in the class and themselves too!"

Sabrina Pratt is principal of SVPratt Creative Strategies; she was director of the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission for 22 years. She serves on ArtWorks' education committee.

The Arts: Not Just Nice to Have Around

by Yann Lussiez

It's sobering every time we hear how New Mexico is at the bottom of the list of states for education, health care, etc. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, seventy-five percent of young children in our great state have at least one risk factor known to impact health, education, or development.

Twenty-three percent of our children are at moderate or high risk for developmental delays or behavioral problems. New Mexico students have some of the lowest math and reading proficiencies in the nation.

Eight percent of our high school students are at risk of dropping out; 7,200 students dropped out in 2013. In that same year, thirty percent of female students who dropped out indicated it was due to pregnancy, with four percent of all the females between the ages of 15 and 19 giving birth; that's 2,946 teen births. We lead the nation in damaging substance abuse, alcohol death rates and mental-illness rates.

our students need something different than the status quo

Gallup recently found that student engagement starts high in elementary school, with 76 percent of kindergartners engaged in school, but quickly drops by middle school to 61 percent engaged and by the end of high school, only 44 percent engaged. Overall, only 50 percent of our students are engaged in schools, with 30 percent not engaged and 20 percent actively disengaged. The Hope Index, the ideas and energy students have for the future, is also only 50 percent hopeful, with the remainder stuck or discouraged. Thirty percent of our students in New Mexico indicated feelings of sadness or hopelessness.

It is clear our students need something different than the status quo. And yet the answers are already here; decades of research show that participating in the arts — music, visual arts, dance, drama or theater — can jump-start school improvement by leading to higher levels of school engagement, higher academic performance, greater leadership, confidence, resilience, civic engagement, and improved creative and critical thinking skills.

Arts education can help reinvent K-12 education, because the arts provide cognitive and developmental benefits that are reaped by students regardless of their socioeconomic status. "Arts education enables those children from a financially challenged background to have a more level playing field with children who have had those enrichment experiences," says Eric Cooper, president and founder of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education.



An ArtWorks student presents her work to the class, building confidence and practicing communication skills. Photo by Kristin Watson.

The benefits of art education go beyond the classroom for our students in New Mexico. The arts are a significant piece of our economy. A recent University of New Mexico study found that the arts and culture provide more jobs for New Mexicans than construction or manufacturing.

That translates to one in every 18 jobs, or more than 43,000 New Mexicans, that work

in arts and cultural jobs. This creative industry pays over \$1.3 billion in wages and contributes more than \$5.6 billion to the state's economy each year. Today's employers have identified intelligence, personability, persistence and creativity as the top personality traits most important to career success, all of which the arts develops.

It's important that our local, state and national leaders and policy makers need to understand that the arts are not just a "nicety" but rather a national economic and educational priority. New Mexico is poised to be a leader in the arts; let's take the step!

A former educator, Yann Lussiez works at the Legislative Finance Committee evaluating statewide educational programs and issues. He serves on ArtWorks' education committee.

ArtWorks Teaching Artist Faculty

Artistic Advisor and Teaching Artist



Oliver Prezant is the Music Director and Conductor of the Santa Fe Community Orchestra, a lecturer and educator for the Santa Fe Opera, and a faculty member in the Contemporary Music Program at Santa Fe University of Art and Design. He has presented lectures and education programs for the

Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the San Francisco Opera Guild, and others. He has presented programs on the relationship of music and visual art for The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum and The Albuquerque Museum of Art. Oliver studied conducting at The Pierre Monteux School, and is a graduate of The Mannes College of Music in New York City.

Teaching Artists

Jennifer Alexander is a mixed media artist, videographer, and licensed NM K-12 educator with a specialty in art education. Jen studied Cultural Anthropology and Art at Kenyon College and has worked with museums on curriculum design and educational videos. In the classroom, Jen encourages self-confidence and creativity through an in-depth exploration of the visual arts.



Wendy Chapin has taught acting to ages 7 - 70 for over 30 years. Recently she directed two plays, *Good People* by David Lindsay Abair and *Gideon's Knot* by Johnna Adams. Wendy is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Directing Fellowship.

Charles Gamble is an actor and teacher who trained at the Ecole Lecoq in France and also leads residencies for elementary students for the Santa Fe Opera ALTO program and teaches high school actors at the New Mexico School for the Arts.



Gregory Gutin is a musician, artist, educator and art therapist, working primarily with children and adolescents. He is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and in 2010 he received his Masters in Art Therapy from Southwestern

College. Gregory is deeply committed to helping youth find healthy passage into adulthood through creativity and hope.

Joan Logghe served as Santa Fe Poet Laureate from 2010 to 2012. She has brought poetry into schools from kindergarten to university, from Chimayó to Zagreb, Croatia. She is the author of eight books of poetry and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry. Photo by Jamey Stillings.



Ann Pelaez is an award-winning choreographer and dance instructor who has taught all dance styles for over 20 years. Ann is bilingual English/Spanish and her background also includes visual art, costume design, writing, and a Master's Degree in English Literature. Ann is most at home helping children make creative connections in the classroom.

The Blank Page is the Snow

for Ms. Deborah Hawthorne and
Mr. Eric Druva

By Joan Logghe, ArtWorks Teaching Artist

The twelve children
still in school on a day of raging snow
know the words simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia.
Accumulates is my favorite verb. Their teacher
wears suspenders and bow tie. His hair slick
as black ice. It's Black & White day at school.
Meanwhile incessant, flashing veils of snow

out the window. Each child knows something
they didn't know they knew. The silence
of writing is like snow. Both are rare in school.
The art teacher falls in love with the moment.
The morning is long as empty playground hours.
The boy says his grandmother is a clock. The snow
is old, it is Navajo snow, Sangre de Cristos are gone

In snow. The loudspeaker breaks in. Early dismissal.
No basketball, no cheerleaders, no this, no that.
Pretty soon everyone is speaking in poetry. They draw
in black on white, like a magpie on chain link. The art
teacher finds a magpie online, dressed formally.
I pilfer language, gather bits and specks as it accumulates
from our brilliant snow-blown minds.



An ArtWorks student's workspace. Photo by
Christopher Watson.

Snow Walk

*By Brayan Arras
Mr. Druva's 6th grade class
EJ Martinez Elementary School*

As I walk along the snow I can
hear my boots making crunching noises
and the empty sound of snow falling
to the floor makes me feel enlightened
being hit by the snow blizzard as
cold as can be.

Along my walk I can feel snow
turning to water as it hits my face
and then fade, my walk in the snow is
unperishable.

ArtWorks Units of Study Included Visits to Some of Santa Fe's Performing and Visual Arts Organizations in 2014-15

We thank the staff and supporters of these world-class organizations, without whom ArtWorks would not exist.

Performing Arts Organizations and Works

October	Santa Fe Symphony and Chorus at the Lensic Performing Arts Center
November	Body Traffic (contemporary dance) at the Lensic Performing Arts Center
December	Circus Luminous at the Lensic Performing Arts Center
January	Hansel & Gretel, opera by Humperdinck, presented by Performance Santa Fe at the Scottish Rite Temple
February	Poetry readings by Luci Tapahonso (Poet Laureate of the Navajo Nation) at La Tienda in Eldorado and the New Mexico History Museum
March	Nuestra Musica (Cipriano Vigil) at the Lensic Performing Arts Center
April	Santa Fe Opera youth production at the Lensic Performing Arts Center

Visual Arts Organizations and Exhibitions

New Mexico Museum of Art	New Mexico Art Tells New Mexico History
Museum of Contemporary Native Arts	Ric Gendron: Rattlebone
Georgia O'Keeffe Museum	Georgia O'Keeffe: Ghost Ranch Views and Modernism Made in New Mexico
Museum of Indian Arts and Culture	Native American Portraits: Points of Inquiry



Navajo Poet Luci Tapahonso gave two poetry readings in English and Diné for 300 ArtWorks students this year. The New Mexico History Museum hosted the reading pictured here attended by students from Nava and Carlos Gilbert Elementary Schools. Photo by Ruthanne Greeley.

ArtWorks and the Partners in Education Foundation for the Santa Fe Public Schools Thank our Generous Supporters

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