

August 9 - November 28, 2009

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception

Sunday, September 27, 3-5pm

Art Thing

Tuesday, September 1, 6-7pm

Join the teaching artist to talk informally about the exhibition and answer questions from the audience.

About the Teaching Artists:

Shannon Kerrigan received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1996. Kerrigan has worked in some of Chicago's preeminent arts organizations, including Artsbridge, ARC Gallery, and Redmoon Theatre. Since joining the Art Center in 2000, Kerrigan has been an artist in residence in over a dozen schools in a variety of programs. She is currently an Artist Guide at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Mary Tepper also received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She teaches and consults with various regional art organizations. Tepper presently works in her expanded studio, Dripping Water, creating custom useable objects, including interior mosaics, handmade papers, books, and prints. Her work has been included in exhibitions at the Hyde Park Art Center, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, and Crane Paper Institute.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Visual Learners: Outreach Collaborations



Mary Tepper and NKO 5th Graders from Mr. Labonte and Ms. Lagarde's class, *Practice Stitching Panels*, 2009, felt and thread, variable size

Visual Learners: Outreach Collaborations chronicles the partnership between the students from North Kenwood Oakland Charter School and Hyde Park Art Center teaching artists Shannon Kerrigan and Mary Tepper. In late 2008, Kerrigan joined Tepper in instructing a yearlong visual arts program with the goal to transform classroom knowledge into tangible art forms. Integrating fourth and fifth grade core curricula with contemporary art making practices, the collaboration now manifests itself in an exhibition that highlights the students' process of art making, revealing the joys and challenges of the classroom experience.

Initiated in 1984, the Hyde Park Art Center's community outreach programs serve nearly 4,000 individuals annually through visual art workshops and classes at Chicago Public Schools,



Shannon Kerrigan and NKO 4th Graders from Ms. Desai and Ms. Smith's class, *Line and Shape Paintings*, 2009, oil pastel, pencil and watercolor, 11 x 14 inches

community members to develop custom programs in a variety of visual art media.

Exhibited in the Art Center's upstairs hallway gallery, *Visual Learners: Outreach Collaborations* showcases the exercises Tepper and Kerrigan used to introduce students to both form and expression in art. Tepper based her program around quilting, a technique which serves as both a useful skill and a challenging creative outlet for the students. Together, the class created a large quilt, including a panel from every student. Each of the quilt's panels features an original haiku and related imagery

youth and community centers, and public housing developments throughout the city. As evidenced in this exhibition, these thriving programs aim to reinforce school curricula, teaching positive life skills, creative problem-solving and visual art techniques. Each community outreach program is tailored to fit the needs of particular partners. The Art Center's education staff works directly with educators, program coordinators, artists, and other

that the students created while studying nature. While building their sewing foundation, the students integrated learned geometry skills, vocabulary, and visual imagery into their fabric pieces. The resulting quilt reveals each student's individual creativity and comprehension of newly acquired skills.

In Kerrigan's classes, students discovered ways to interpret the world through the use of line and pattern. Kerrigan's students were exposed to the works of modern masters, including painter Joan Miró and sculptor Alexander Calder, to give a historical context as well as provide creative inspiration to the students. Through observational drawings, time-based sketches and daily journals, students learned essential drawing and problem solving skills while becoming more aware of their surroundings and space. Students were introduced to a variety of different media including oil pastels, watercolor paints, and charcoal, allowing them to explore different artistic practices and means of creative expression. The students then created three-dimensional works based on their drawings, such as the dynamic wire portraits included in the exhibition. In her classes, Kerrigan stressed the importance of meaningful awareness—not only creating art to connect the eye to the hand, but to also bring students into the present moment.

Through their yearlong collaboration, the students and teaching artists built meaningful relationships, with every participant being offered new challenges, ideas, and perspectives. The artworks presented here in *Visual Learners: Outreach Collaborations* are the tangible products of this community partnership.



Mary Tepper and NKO 5th Graders from Mr. Labonte and Ms. Lagarde's class, *Class Quilt*, 2009, cloth and fabric markers, 46 x 45 inches