

Distractions: Pursuit of the Juvenile Mind

GALLERY 5 | June 5 – September 4

The Hyde Park Art Center's Youth Art Board explores the concept of distractions found in pop-cultural phenomena.

Incorporating original installation work by talented youth artists from across the city, the show will explore themes of diversions, leisure, and even insanity through multi-media work and altering the exhibition space with painted backgrounds. The Youth Art Board is a group of teens from Kenwood Academy and King College Prep that explore topics and techniques in the arts and act as the Art Center's conduit to the teenage experience.

The show includes work by students from BESt Academy, Chicago High School for the Arts, and John Hancock Academy.

"Distractions: Pursuit of the Juvenile Mind and other adventures with the Youth Art Board at HPAC"

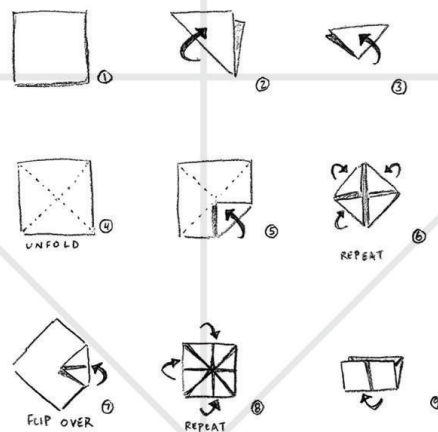
Anthony Marcos Rea, Artist Mentor

Distractions can be difficult! That's is what I learned during this project and during the overall length of my time with the Youth Art Board. There are so many out there and so many ways of being directed in multiple places, journeys and routes. Figuring out which bus to take to the Loop for a Columbia College trip was challenging and I realized that BlackBerry's aren't very "app" capable for things like Yellow Pages when you want to order a pizza. I did discover that CTA Bus Tracker is quite simpler than GoogleMaps and if you just ask your students they will tell you everything you need to know. From vinyl-tape installation works illustrating mummified characters to daily drawing exercises, artist videos and random open discussions of just about anything art related to the metaphor behind zombie culture; "Distractions" are just about everywhere.

The work created here is a collaborative effort between students of the Youth Art Board, and their Artist Mentor (me) Anthony Rea. We viewed the work of artists like Laylah Ali, some Mark Bradford, Trenton Doyle Hancock, William Kentridge, Julie Mehretu, a little bit of Pepon Osorio because we wanted to see something glitter, along with Matthew Ritchie and others! We stayed visually occupied and distracted all at the same time and through all of these amazing efforts we created this work you see here now. There was this Call for Artist that became exciting once all the work starting flowing in and gave us even more motivation to keep moving on our way to the end, to today, yesterday and everywhere in between! You can see themes of love, landscapes and journeys, we hoped for glitter paint but settled for metallic shimmers, floating leaves, more zombie heads/flower patches, free-writing text, and music lyrics all to keep you looking. So thank you to all of the Youth Art Board, Ray Yang and the whole Hyde Park Art Center for allowing us to explore this playful theme presented here today. I also wanted to say thank you to the high school artists that submitted works; they were amazing and we really enjoyed everything that came through the center doors!

So enjoy.... "Distractions: Pursuit of the Juvenile Mind"!

FOLDING INSTRUCTIONS



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.