

ART IN GENERAL

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Artscool, 2007.

For Immediate Release

Arts in Education Program *Artscool*

Student Exhibition June 12-June 30, 2007

Video Premieres on June 12 2:30-4 p.m. and June 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

For Immediate Release New York, NY (May 11, 2007) As part of Art in General's Arts in Education Program, Art in General is pleased to host an exhibition of videos and comic books produced by two schools in Lower Manhattan: MS 131 Dr. Sun Yat Sen Middle School and Pace High School. This collaboration was facilitated by classroom teachers **Kristen Cappadona, Jennifer Joyce, Heidi Ledet, Ann Marchant, Nikoletta Moulinos, Diana Totolos, and Tiffany Vallo**; teaching artists **Kouross Esmaeli, Edwin Gonzalez and Tara Mateik**; and teaching artist assistants **Daniel Reyes, Oasa DuVerny and Lake Serrins**.

Seventh-and eighth-grade MS 131 English Language Arts [ELA] students and juniors from Pace High School learn the intricacies of making a video, focusing on not only technical aspects but also elements of esthetics. Eighth-grade English Language Learners [ELL] from MS 131 learn to draw and produce comics. The process for both programs involves teamwork, exchanging ideas and communal decision making, as the students worked together in groups to construct their projects. Ann Marchant, ELA teacher, notices the positive impression it left on one of her students and comments, "Art in General has opened up new opportunities for learning in our classroom. Students step away from traditional practices and find themselves involved in a hands-on project where they need to communicate with one another, delegate tasks, use equipment, direct and manage their time effectively. I've watched several students develop leadership skills as they keep their group on track and ensure that the work gets done. Other students have become negotiators who help their group form a consensus." Topics of student videos in the Arts and Education program this year have ranged from the state of Chinatown post-9/11, saying no to drugs and the importance of helping others.

Art In General's goal is to encourage collaboration between teachers and teaching artists through art projects that highlight and enrich existing curriculum. Our program exposes students to unconventional art practices and provides both the materials and guidance to make their own original artwork as well as the unique opportunity to show this artwork at Art in General. Two red-carpet premieres will take place at Art in General, with videos presented live by the students who made them: Pace High School on June 12, 2:30-4 p.m. and MS 131 on June 13, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Through collaborative lesson plan building, teaching artists work with classroom teachers one day per week, for a period of twenty weeks. Together teaching artists and classroom teachers create lesson plans that enrich classroom curriculum and integrate the concepts and techniques of exhibiting artists at Art in General. Class fieldtrips to Art in General introduce the students to the organization's New Commissions artists. The program culminates in a final project designed by the student artists.

About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and informs and engages the public about their work.

In 25 years, the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists can exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Art in General has exhibited the work of nearly 5,000 artists working across a wide range of media.

Art in General's Education Program is made possible by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities; the JPMorgan Chase Foundation; and George Mills. Additional support has been provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro; William T. Grant Foundation; The New York City Department of Education; Colgate-Palmolive Company; ConEdison; and public funds from Creative Curricula, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts' Local Capacity Building Program and administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.



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