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A Message from ProjectArt’s Detroit Director

Dear ProjectArt Friends,

As I reflect upon the past year of ProjectArt classes in Detroit, I am in awe of our resilient and imaginative students. Each week, students and teachers met in virtual classrooms and found innovative ways to build community. Students shared their life experiences and collectively embraced new creative explorations.

I recall joining a class recently that inspired me. A ProjectArt student arrived tardy and unprepared in regard to the supplies required to participate in class. Upon entry, it was clear he had a tough day. I was profoundly touched by the way his classmates enthusiastically welcomed him and how his teacher worked with him to problem solve in terms of substituting the materials he needed. Quickly, he felt a safe space for sharing with his teacher and classmates about his challenging day at school. It’s impossible to quantify the impact moments like this—moments of compassion and connectivity generated by our programming—have on the future well-being of our students and our shared humanity.

This summer, the Detroit Public Library’s Main branch will be blessed with a ProjectArt exhibition, showcasing both our professional artists and youth artists. It is uplifting to consider the library patrons who will have the opportunity to enjoy this art. I am already looking forward to our fall classes and returning to in-person programming. I will, in an effort to bolster our enrollment, market our classes to families on Detroit’s East Side, as well as those near the Durfee Innovative Society Community Center. Without question, accessibility to exemplary arts education in Detroit is essential.

Through your support of ProjectArt, we are able to provide a safe space in which students have the capacity to realize their potential. As one of our ProjectArt Detroit parents recently shared, “I have absolutely loved the teacher’s engagement and encouragement with my artist. My artist is considering starting an art club and using this program’s lessons to help others learn and express their creativity.”

Thank you for your ongoing support, faith, and confidence in the work we do. We could not do this work without you.

Sincerely,

Joanna Anderson
Program Director, Detroit
PROJECTART DETROIT DATA 2021-22

200+ STUDENTS

200 DISTRIBUTED ART KITS

5 LIBRARIES
- MAIN LIBRARY
- PARKMAN LIBRARY
- EDISON LIBRARY
- CAMPBELL LIBRARY
- SHERWOOD FOREST LIBRARY

360 TOTAL CLASSES

6 ARTIST EDUCATORS
**PROJECTART DATA 2021-22**
**DETROIT STUDENT EVALUATION SURVEY**

**WHAT PROJECTART STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY**

- **Do you feel confident when making projects in this class?**
  - Yes 100%

- **Do you like sharing your artwork with your teacher during class and seeing other student’s artwork?**
  - Yes 96%

- **Have your art skills improved in this class?**
  - Yes 93%

- **Are the activities in this class teaching you new ways of expressing yourself?**
  - Yes 86%

- **Do you like the activities in this class?**
  - Yes 100%

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“Something that I like about attending art classes is that I [can] be myself and show how I feel in my drawings. I like that I can show my creativity to different artists just like me. When in art class I also like the activities we do and new things that we learn.” Raven, 17, is applying for scholarships because of her, “passion for art [and her] ability to learn art.”

“Our class worked on building a portfolio, exploring watercolor, and drawing portraits. Overall, I’m having fun. I’m trying to be compassionate towards myself for making art mistakes. I really liked collaging my portfolio and painting in watercolor.” Tatiana, 17
**WHAT PROJECTART PARENTS HAVE TO SAY**

- "I have absolutely loved the teacher's engagement and encouragement with my artist. My artist is considering starting an art club and using this program's lessons to help others learn and express their creativity." - 4-7 year old Parent
- "Great project for the students to develop confidence and other art skills thanks so much for allowing Amaya to participate. I'm so grateful." - 8-12 year old Parent
- "We love this class. The teacher, Anna, is excellent. Friendly and knowledgeable and great at giving the children attention." - 4-7 year old Parent
- "Thank you for what you do. I'm a HUGE fan of art and ensuring that our young people have access to creative opportunities to help them thrive. And I'm grateful." - 4-7 year old Parent
- "He is really enjoying this art class. He gets excited about it weekly. Thank you." - 8-12 year old Parent
- "The teen class meets twice a week and "my child is more confident now." - 13-18 year old Parent
STUDENT ARTWORK 4-7 YO

Self-Portrait Raegan, 4
Giselle, 4
Raegan, 4
Ceneyah, 4
Penelope, 6
Jack, 4
STUDENT ARTWORK 8-12 YO

Savannah, 9
Gabriel, 11
Charlotte, 8
Reign, 9
Eric, 9
Eric, 9
STUDENT ARTWORK 13-18 YO

Raven, 17

Tatiana 17

Nelson, 15

Tatiana, 17
PROJECT ART AND MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT TEEN COLLABORATION

Class is in Session: 8-12 yo

Class is in Session: 13-18 yo
ProjectArt students journeyed to The Alley Project (TAP) in Southwest Detroit near the Campbell Library. They participated in a mural design workshop led by photographer and community organizer Erik Paul Howard and ProjectArt Resident Artist Ruth Koelewyn.
The Detroit Public Library, in collaboration with ProjectArt, showcased Jenenne Whitfield’s children’s book, Yeret Nutyog, in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Heidelberg Project. Yeret Nutyog is inspired by the life of Heidelberg Project renowned artist, Tyree Guyton who is the recipient of a 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Detroit. Yeret, a young man in Detroit, overcomes bullying to find his passion and strength within, to overcome obstacles.

As Whitfield says, “When things get tough you just have to stand, you have to stand and walk through it because it helps you to grow as a person.” The film begins with author and Heidelberg Project’s longtime President, Jenenne Whitfield reading the story aloud. After, ProjectArt’s Joanna Anderson and the author fielded questions from ProjectArt students about the book and the Heidelberg Project.
MEET OUR ARTIST EDUCATORS

Anna van Schaap
Grew up in Grand Rapids, MI and attended the University of Michigan’s School of Art and Design. Along with Fine Art, she also focused on Art History & Curatorial Studies, and Women’s Studies. She has been a Detroit resident for over a decade, working as a fine artist, curator, and guest lecturer. Primarily known for her painting work, she also creates supplementary sculptures, and is a certified NPPA photographer. Drawing heavily on the Dutch and Italian masters, her work overlaps surrealism with activism, while exploring ideas of iconography, feminine identity, representation, symbolism, communication, the inability to communicate, and the psychopathology that arises from repression.

Ciondra Brown
Is a Detroit based artist. Being born and raised in Detroit her work is heavily inspired by the energy, history and spirit of her hometown. Using the mediums of typography, type design and printmaking to emulate the joy and vibrancy of African American Vernacular English. She is a graduate of Wayne State University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Ciondra has presented work at 7th International Conference on Typography & Visual Communication and is a member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts.

Ruth Koelewyn
Seeks to understand how we use everyday experiences to learn and how new and unfamiliar experiences are built through the commonplace. Her practice has included curatorial projects, collaborative projects, and her individual studio work. These practices have been supported by organizations such as the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Lackawanna County Department of Art and Culture, the Mondelēz Foundation, and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts among others.

Mariam Ezzat
Is a sculptor known for using personal belongings as a physical medium, examining the relationship between the subconscious routine and intentional creation. Her sculptures are made by processing and arranging the material debris of life, mixing the inherent poetry of objects. Mariam received her MFA from Johnson State College in 2015 and is a professor of Foundational Design as well as a 2015 Kresge Artist Fellow. She curated the group exhibition, Mid Spiritual Modern, in 2019 and organized the educational showcase, Mixed Nuts, in Dearborn, MI for the Sisson Gallery at Henry Ford College in 2020. She lives and works in Detroit, MI.

Rachel Elise Thomas
(b. 1988) is a Detroit-born and based artist and designer who obtained their BFA in Photography from the College for Creative Studies. Her work has been featured in numerous print and digital publications.

Being a collage artist and documentary photographer has given her the versatility to tell stories in different ways. She gathers inspiration from vintage magazines and advertisements, family artifacts, old photographs, decorative paper, textiles and printed words; assembling imagery and materials that invite the viewer to deeply examine the messages being presented. These messages revolve around identity, ancestry and spirituality. With topics sometimes having tongue-in-cheek nuances, this is done as a way to further understand and delve into issues that affect our society—such as: overconsumption, vanity, materialism, colorism, sexism and racism.

Corinne MacInnes
Is a Metro Detroit based artist working primarily with ceramic mediums while also incorporating multimedia components into her work. She graduated with a BA in 2015 from Kalamazoo College and attended the Michigan State University Post-Baccalaureate Ceramics program for two years. Her work focuses on the small details and individual parts that make up a whole. She often makes hundreds, if not thousands, of copies of each form by hand to generate a final work. Each part of her complete pieces also listen to a love for tiny versions of regular sized things, which she portrays with a tenderness and a dilated version of kitch.