



The Art Experience

Our Mission

The Art Experience is a Community Arts Studio with a mission: "To provide creative and therapeutic arts experiences for a diverse Oakland County community."

Our Vision

We envision The Art Experience, Inc., as a recognized effective educational and therapeutic arts resource that cultivates creativity as essential to the quality of people's lives.

Inside this issue:

- A Letter from Our President** 2
- Update on Katie** 2
- L.O.F.T. Participants Explore Art** 3
- Creative Club** 3
- Art Journaling** 4
- Port's O' Call** 5
- Intern Experience** 5
- A Poem by James Watson** 6
- Healing Power of the Arts** 6
- Featured Artists** 6
- Class Schedule** 7
- ReCreation Studio** 8

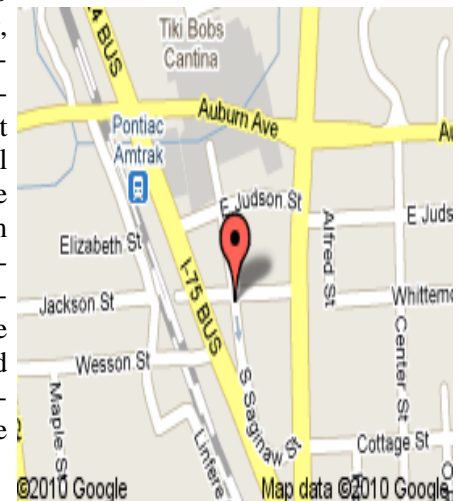
Summer 2010



Our New Home...

Since our move to Pontiac last summer, we have been enjoying our wonderful new studio space that not only encourages spontaneity and creativity, but also really feels like home now. Once a car showroom, our newly converted building is also home to Canterbury Stained Glass, a cabinet maker, a fiber artist, and a plethora of other fine artists providing a unique center for fellow community artisans. Floor to ceiling windows let in beautiful light to paint by, ornate crown molding framing the tall ceilings allude to a more decorous and decadent time in Michigan, and the kitchenette with a bathroom attached makes the studio more practical and convenient for our students. With playfully painted furniture, shelves of various objects waiting to have their portrait done, and stacks of art supplies and magazines, this new space embodies endless possibilities within any artist. This is truly a place where the everyday can become a student's inspiration.

Located south of the
Phoenix
Center in Pontiac



A Letter from The Art Experience President

Transition is a topic that surfaces in much of The Art Experience's delivery of service to participants in its programs. Transition has also defined the organization's existence this past year. Support from our network of board and staff, volunteers and all of our stakeholders has allowed us to focus on orchestrating improved efficiency in operations and growth in areas of programming and outreach. In August of 2009 we moved our studio to its new location on Saginaw Street in Pontiac, south of Orchard Lake and Auburn roads. Our Creative Director and Co-Founder, Katie Serewicz, lead us through this physical transition. She now faces another transition of her own. Recovering from a ruptured aneurysm that occurred in December of 2009, Katie is still at the center of what we at the studio do and believe in. My dear friend and colleague guides us to community – wherever we can find it. It still surrounds her as she journeys through her recovery. You may read more about the journey in Sue Nimlin's article below.

Katie would have me tell you of the beautiful space we call our studio. The tall windows let in much light – a nice metaphor for what occurs there. I would interject something about how it's not costing us any more than the last space. She would continue about the easy access to the outdoors, to nature. I'd agree adding that close proximity to parking makes it easy to schlep in loads of art materials. That is the dance Katie and I do, wherever we are. We both invite you to come and more importantly *be yourself* in *your* new studio. Many great things are happening there. I'll let the rest of our friends and colleagues fill you in within the body of this newsletter. Please do visit, and experience art in your own way under our guidance awash in the light of day.

Board of Directors

Board President
Judy Wilson

Treasurer
Loretta Juricic

Trustees
Sue Nimlin
Pat O'Connor
Marie Murray
Andreas Douglas
Gerald Provencal
Keri "Bean" Welborn
Kristin Allen
Denise McBeath-Thomas
Glen Armstrong
Carolyn Masnari

Creative Director
Katie Serewicz

Office Coordinator
Lindsey Klingenberg

We are currently seeking board members. Please inquire within for details.

Update on Katie Serewicz By Sue Nimlin

Katie is the art teacher at Kennedy Center in Pontiac where she works with students with disabilities. Katie teaches her students the healing and growth potential in creating with all kinds of art media. She is also one of 6 art therapy students in Wayne State University's Art Therapy Program who decided the community was lacking a studio where students of all walks of life and ability could come and work together to make art. 14 years ago, these women formed The Art Experience (TAE). Katie brought with her a fine arts background, a background as a professional artist and designer, a gregarious personality, a firm and passionate belief in the value of art making as a healer and an enhancer of life, and a tenacious advocacy for anyone who had a desire to explore their creativity. In addition to her full time work at Kennedy School, Katie became and remains The Art Experience's Creative Director. She and just a few of the founders that are still around and newly growing staff, continue to create art experiences opportunities for the community.

At 11 pm on December 29, 2009 life changed for Katie Serewicz, Pat O'Connor and all the folks that know and love them. Katie awakened to the most

painful headache of her life and then she stopped breathing. Thank God Pat was home and awake, that the EMS responded quickly, and that the local hospital quickly diagnosed the problem and sent her to Detroit Receiving Hospital (DRH) Neuro Trauma Intensive Care Unit. Thank God they had a surgeon who knew how to stop the bleeding of this very deep and centrally located vessel in Katie's brain and for the neuro trauma staff and doctors who knew what to do to keep Katie from lapsing into a coma. From DRH, Katie went to the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (RIM), then on to Danto for extended care and sub acute rehab.

Through all this Katie experienced many new beginnings: learning to breathe on her own again, to talk again, to keep her eyes open, to move her arms and legs again, to wash her face, to sit up, to balance, to take her first steps again, to swallow again, to stay focused. Each new victory was celebrated by her trusty sidekick and companion, her shepherd, her advocate, her cheerleader, her journalist, her songwriter, her husband, Pat O'Connor. Surrounding the two of them, their family and their friends continue to support and love them any way they know how. **Cont. on page 4**

L.O.F.T. Participants Explore Art *By Ester Mauricio*

The theme for this 12-week session is “Celebrate Autumn, Winter & Me “ which began 10/15/09 for students, ages 18 to 26, from Oxford’s L.O.F.T. (Learning Opportunities for Teens) post secondary program. The class comes to our center on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 am.

The Art Experience, Inc. provides an environment of art appreciation and creative expression where these young adults get to explore colors, texture, and various media. There are opportunities for problem-solving, social interaction and strengthening fine motor skills. So far the group has created and designed silhouette collages, cards, clay monsters, nature mobiles, acrylic gesture paintings, homemade

scrapbook creations, and photo holders.

L.O.F.T. participants are a wonderful mixture of personalities with a great sense of humor. They are very helpful with one another and eager to learn. Their teacher, Mrs. Diccico, along with paraprofessionals, Kathy Stull and Carolyn Hicks are skillful, patient in guiding and providing an enriching environment for the students. The students keep busy at their program with many practical hands-on experiences. This past fall they put together a fundraiser selling their own delicious homemade apple pies from the recipe of Mrs. Diccico’s father. They sold about 100 pies which totaled \$800 for them.

“These participants are a wonderful mixture of personalities with a great sense of humor.”



*Art by
Donald
Maskill*



*Chris
Jewell with
his mobile.*

Creative Club *By Marie Murray*

The Creative Club is an art therapy program for adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities. Partnered with the Macomb Oakland Regional Center (MORC), The Art Experience developed a ten week art adventure which was attended by nine area adults. The program’s theme, “MI Experience”, aligned weekly art projects on attributes of the state of Michigan.

Creative Club provides an opportunity for social interaction, while activity processes challenge organization, planning, attention



*Clarence Cole
participant of the
Creative Club*

span and motor control. Our 10 week program ended with a student gallery exhibit and participant’s family members were invited to attend the opening. Each artist introduced their work and had the chance to speak to the group about their favorite processes and sharing program memories. Copper foil techniques, portraiture, and automotive design were some of the special projects; but hands down, all enjoyed the frozen trout printing experience!

*Marie Murray,
Student Art Therapist*

Update on Katie cont. from p. 2

Soon, it became apparent that this was not going to be a short or a smooth trip for Katie and Pat. This was not a journey for the faint hearted, this was going to be tough and hard to sustain on your own. Tony Rothchild, a friend of Pat's spearheaded the formation of Team Pat and Katie. This team of family and friends was formed to help Katie and Pat through all of this... some would feed their cats and empty the litter box, some would prepare meals, do light housekeeping, some would offer board and room for Pat as he traveled away from home to one site and then another, some would read to Katie, some would serve as advocates, some would write poems and letters and words of wisdom and hope and words of inspiration, some would hold Katie's hand, some would give massages for both Katie and Pat, some would do the laundry, some would take Pat out for a beer and night with the boys, some would wash Katie's hair and do her nails, some would provide respite for Pat, children from Katie's school would send homemade cards and pictures, artists would be inspired by her courage and would create beautiful healing canvases that glowed in the dark, some former clients would compose songs for her healing and in honor of her wonderful work at The Art Experience, some would provide Katie and Pat with the joke of the day, some would provide help in navigating the financial, medical and legal quagmire of living with a disability, some would form prayer circles, some would setup blogs so the team could organize the care calendar and chores better. Some would just be there in silence and hope. Some would give hugs. Some would laugh and cry and dance with them. Some would shake their fist at the gods. Some would pledge to help financially. All would become a "family" of sorts pledged to help

others, who have touched so many lives and made a difference in the quality of so many lives. Katie and Pat continue the work on Katie's rehabilitation. There has continued to be bumps in the road, highs and lows. Their love for life and each other has been awesome to watch and inspirational.

**If you would like to read more of their story you can sign on to Caring Bridges blog at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/katieserewicz>*

**If you have an interest in joining Team Pat and Katie and helping with their care write to John Ziraldo at: jziraldo@gmail.com*

**If you would like to make further donation of your money please write the check to "Katie Serewicz" and send the money to her address:
986 Argyle, Pontiac Mi. 48341*

**If you wish to visit or write to Pat and Katie, she is currently at Danto Care Facility for continued rehabilitation and healing:*

**Danto Healthcare Center
6800 W. Maple Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
tel. 248.788. 5300**

**If you are an artist, a teacher, an art therapist, or someone just interested in art and you would like to be part of our continuing art experience at our studio or if you would like to make a donation to continue Katie's wonderful work and efforts you can contact
TAE: tel. 248. 706. 3304*

Email: customerservice@theartexperience.org

Art Journaling By Sue Nimlin

The art journaling class transcends your basic lined notebook, leading to a work purely exhibiting yourself, both artistically and emotionally. Using visual and verbal aspects of journaling, participants were able to learn how to intuitively get to their inner feelings. Using collage, metal tooling and embellishments, transparencies, doors and windows on pages, color washes and a variety of lettering along with different writing techniques and prompts, this experimental



class was fun and explorative for participants. Participants plan on working together again, even collaborating on an art journal for June's Healing Power of the Arts show. The art journalists hope their group and future classes will grow, bringing more ideas and collaboration. **To join this circle of art journalists and learn new techniques for exploring yourself and your creativity, e-mail Sue Nimlin at : hnimlin@aol.com**

Ports O' Call 2009 *By Kristin Allen*

Our 9th Annual Ports O' Call was a huge success last year! Hosted at The Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac on December 6, 2009, we continued the traditions of the past, such as our live and silent auctions, and made some exciting new additions. The silent auction had over 100 items to bid on, including "behind the scene" DIA tours, Meadow Brook Theater tickets, a cappuccino maker, art supplies and custom made jewelry. We also had 29 artists donate original works, giving the event a gallery feel on the upper level balcony of the venue. Another addition was the live art demonstration by Visual Artist Mike "Chizzy" Chisholm. Chizzy set up 3 blank canvases and created his stellar pieces of art during the auction. Everyone was engaged as the live art was created before their eyes, especially when the lights were dimmed to watch them glow in the dark!

There also was a live music performance by

Singer/Songwriter Brad Hodge and Rhythmologist Kevin Collins, they provided lively music to move through the night's events. The live auction featured a Florida getaway for 4 nights and 5 days, a winter up north vacation at Petoskey's Odawa Casino Resort, a private Jazz piano party, a gourmet dinner party for 8 prepared in your own home, a glass fusing experience courtesy of Canterbury Stained Glass, a home watercolor studio experience and a DIA Your Way tour. There were also raffles for a party for 40 at The Shark Club, a river yacht cruise with dinner on Lake St. Clair and a stained glass window by Elaine Copeman. The success of the 2009 Ports O' Call was due to all of The Art Experience volunteers, program participants, sponsors, donors, and all family and friends who donated time and money.

***Thank you all, we hope you will join us again for our 10th annual Ports O' Call, December 5, 2010 at The Crofoot Ballroom in Pontiac.**

The Intern Experience *By Andrea Grimaldi and Liz DePaoli*

When searching for a place to intern this semester, The Art Experience stood out with their description: "A fun and funky atmosphere ran by people who are often frazzled." I am not artistically inclined, making me hesitant to be surrounded by talented artists, but I am a fan of the fun, funky and frazzled. TAE embodies this, choosing creative workspace over structure and schedule, allowing the creation of the studio work. Artists are free to work on whatever they need without commitment, the directors only encourage rather than push. Even in the classes, there is collaborative advice and interest rather than overwhelming instruction. TAE is dynamic, everyday has new people and activities. There is an undeniable feeling of old friendship at TAE. The Thursday Quilter's Circle felt more like a family reunion than it did a class, as each of the quilters greeted each other with hugs and kisses. The familiarity of the open studio artists and friendship between each artist and employee shows that TAE is a community based on passions and creation. The studio is a gallery within itself; artwork hanging on each wall meshes with the constant stream of music, conversation and poetry reading for an atmosphere of inspiration.

By Andrea Grimaldi

The mood at TAE's art studio is sure to bring out the inspiring artist in anyone. As a writer and English major, I feel incredibly lucky to have an opportunity to work in an environment that encourages and fosters creativity. Here at The Art Experience, whether during more formal classes or open studio, students often wait patiently to be inspired to create something truly amazing, creativity flows freely and naturally. The Art Journaling class, for example, offers students meditation and visualization techniques to produce wonderfully personal journals. During my time here as an intern, I've appreciated more than anything that TAE is not only a community center offering opportunities for anyone to become a student of art, but it is also a space that supports invaluable friendships and networks between people of all ages. This built-in support system is truly unique to TAE, who strongly believe creating art transcends the artificial by providing powerful therapeutic medicine for the body and soul. All the smiling faces and friendly greetings by students each time I come in to work makes me a believer in the therapeutic benefits of art . ***By Liz DePaoli***

The Art Experience Got It Going On

175 South Saginaw Suit 109 Creativity all the Time.
Women, Females moving and taking care of business
Katie and the others, Geniuses and Goddesses
is their nature

The Art Experience got it going on
Lindsey the voice over the phone
Judy's been doing it for so long
To which I am proud to belong
The Art Experience got it going on
Students learning art
Anne & Marilyn were the start
Believe me it's a work of Art
The approval needle is off the chart
The Art Experience got it going on
The Art Experience got it going on
They even inspired this song
Go on ladies take it home....

*A Poem By
James Watson*



*Artwork by
Carolyn Masnari*

Featured Artists

Rob and Mike Orick

by Liz DePaoli

After drawing and painting throughout their childhood, Rob and Mike Orick followed the advice of their mother and opted to work in a more structured space at The Art Experience. The two brothers have been coming to TAE for a year and a half, creating imaginative and vibrant cartoon artwork and are now our featured artists for Summer 2010. Their artwork can be purchased in the studio.



Mike Orick

The most striking characteristic of Mike's artwork is the undeniable "cuteness" of his subjects. Working within the "baby fur art" genre of cartoon characters, Mike loves to draw baby animals in rich and bold primary colors. Inspired by other blog artists, such as Marcie McAdams, who paint and draw in the "furry art" mode, Mike has perfected his own cast of adorable baby characters in his art. His work embodies the playful and the imaginative, and he strongly believes having fun while creating art is the most important thing to remember.

An avid record-collector, Rob Orick describes his style of painting as a showcase for his "peculiar sense of humor." Strongly influenced by such cartoonists as Charles Shultz, Jim Davis, and Seth McFarlane, Rob enjoys drawing everything from recognizable cartoon characters to scenes of the outdoors, and sometimes what he deems, "colorful, off-the-wall kind of stuff." His works often bleed into the "pop art" genre and sometimes features famous advertisement logos. His advice to young artists: Have patience with yourself and stay true to your talents and your artwork.



The Healing Power
of the Arts

The Fourth Healing Power of the Arts Exhibit, a collaboration of The Art Experience and Orion Art Center, took place this year, with the Premier Opening event at The Art Experience on Thursday, June 17th. The Exhibit will continue through July 8th, and will then travel to the Orion Art Center, where there will be a second Opening on July 15th, and will be on display through August 5th. This collection of work demonstrates the powerful role art can play in healing - from grief, cancer, Alzheimer's, stroke, emotional abuse, depression, anxiety and other mental illnesses, substance use, etc.

Each of the two exhibit venues hosts a different featured artist. The Art Experience featured Ellen Stern, a well known local artist who is stepping forward to show how she has used her art of mosaic, sculpture and other visual art in dealing with mental illness. In her words "I am a mixed media artist. I feel sparks when I think of a new art idea. Making it is the reward. Finishing it is a mixed blessing because, although it is exciting to fulfill my imagination of it, I am saddened when the process is complete, like leaving a friend behind".

We encourage all of our readers to attend the opening at the Orion Art Center next month. Kay Douglas, their featured artist, will be displaying her work. Her work showcases her growth through various life transitions and how she used her artwork to gain greater perspective on these events. Don't miss the Opening on July 15th at the Orion Art Center. For more information on the event please visit www.theartexperience.org.

Rob Orick

An avid record-collector, Rob Orick describes his style of painting as a showcase for his "peculiar sense of humor." Strongly influenced by such cartoonists as Charles Shultz, Jim Davis, and Seth McFarlane, Rob enjoys drawing everything from recognizable cartoon characters to scenes of the outdoors, and sometimes what he deems, "colorful, off-the-wall kind of stuff." His works often bleed into the "pop art" genre and sometimes features famous advertisement logos. His advice to young artists: Have patience with yourself and stay true to your talents and your artwork.

Summer & Youth Art Programs

Young artists benefit from the mentoring of our professional staff while working with quality art material to expand their skills in drawing and painting. The concentrated schedule immerses young artists in their creative process in a positive environment. You'll be wonderfully surprised at what they can accomplish and create!

Double Dip Club Ages 10 and up. Jump into this extraordinary, creatively stimulating art experience. Young artist will sharpen their skills guided by our professional staff, in a positive environment where each artist sets individualized artistic goals. Small class size, so sign up soon! Quality art materials provided for fee. Fee: \$48 each OR \$90 for both. Taught by Denise Thomas, MEd.

Dive into Drawing: July 12th - July 15th 9:30am to 12:00 noon, \$8 material fee

Plunge into Painting: July 19th– July 22nd 9:30am to 12:00 noon, \$12 material fee

Advance Art Camp Ages 10 and up. Imagine four days of art exploration! Learn to see as artists see. Students will strengthen their ability to visually express themselves using drawing and painting mediums. Experience the studio setting with fellow emerging artists. Students should bring samples of their work to the first session. Fee: \$120, materials included. Taught by Judy Wilson, MEd.

August 9th– August 12th 10 am - 4 pm

Drop-in Classes

Open Studio Come into our studio and paint, draw or work on 2D or 3D collage. We provide the space, materials & some guidance - you provide your imagination & desire to explore basic art mediums. Express yourself in a comfortable setting where others are doing the same. Get to know other creative or trying to be creative types from local communities. You are welcome to join us on a drop-in basis for a minimal fee. Tues – Fri 12:30-3:30, Wed & Thurs evening 6:30–9:00, Sat 1-3; \$5 includes most materials; all ages welcomed.



Quilter's Collective A weekly drop-in quilting group; bring your own materials, share and learn from other quilters. Thurs. 1-3 \$3; all ages.

Specialized Programs

Creativity Club - serving MORC consumers Thursday evenings. Contact MORC for referral. Marie Murray, AT Intern facilitator. – *Program on hold until further notice.*

LOFT Program - serving students with cognitive impairments from Oxford schools, Thursday mornings, Ester Mauricio, LBSW, MS, facilitator. Contact customerservice@theartexperience.org to inquire about collaborations among TAE & your school district.

Fall Classes

Paint It, Collage It! Younger artists will explore paint, color & collage. We will paint on paper, canvas, & household objects too, creating funk-tional art. Creative self-expression with a twist! We will stress fine art principles and FUN. Taught by Judy Wilson, ME.d.

Ages 11 and up Tuesdays, 4-5:30

Ages 6-10 Thursdays, 4:30-5:45

Fee: \$72, \$12 material fee, materials included; Fee: \$60, \$12 material fee, materials included;

9/21-11/09, 8 weeks

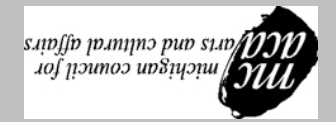
9/23– 11/11, 8 weeks

Come Celebrate Fall Mondays 10/04/10 – 11/08/10 10 am – 11:30, \$60 Participate in this 6-week celebration of fall with your child. Spend quality time together playing games, art activities, and a story each week. Art supplies and snacks provided. Ages 3-5 accompanied by a significant adult; additional siblings \$45. Taught by Ester Mauricio, LBSW, MS, experienced artist.

Renoir, Van Gogh, Matisse Tuesdays 6:30-9:30 pm, 9/21-11/02, \$70, materials not included;

Study three great artists, incorporating art history, to create art of our own. Use any medium such as acrylic, oil, or watercolor paint on paper or canvas. Matisse's cut paper technique may be used. The study of the technique and lives of these artists will make each student feel a living part of the history of art. Students are encouraged to bring own materials; basic acrylic/watercolors available upon request- \$5/session, canvas at cost. Taught by Carolyn Masnari, art educ. 15 yrs, artist 30 yrs.

ReCreation Studio
Participants in

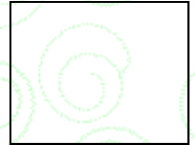


ReCreation Studio (RCS) participants are enjoying 16 weeks of art workshops. Art as therapy methods are used to assist adults in recovery from mental illness and/or substance use. Workshops began in our studio in April and continue through August. Drawing and painting are the mediums we're studying. This activity is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCA) with a grant from the Oakland Office of Arts, Culture and Film. The pilot year in September of 2007 (funded by Michigan Department of Community Health through Oakland County Community Health) yielded positive outcomes in 40 weeks of workshops. A successful phone campaign provided another ten weeks in 2008. It's great to be able to reach out once again and provide this creative and therapeutic experience.

TAE staff and board of directors believe involvement in the arts for people with mental illness brings health benefits. These individuals, when met with the need to expand their treatment regimen, experience limitations in their insurance coverage. Most insurance plans will not provide for art therapy or other adjunct modes of treatment. This funding allows participants to learn how involvement in the arts may enhance their ability to cope with stress. Woven throughout the weeks of fine art lessons are opportunities to learn how the arts engage what are often underutilized modes of cognitive processing, those similarly used in meditation and other forms of relaxation.

Questions? Contact Judy Wilson, project director and Art Therapist facilitator, who continues pursuing opportunities for collaboration and funding for RCS. Thank you MCA and Oakland County!

RE-CREATION STUDIO RETURNS!



The Art Experience, Inc.
175 S. Saginaw St.
Suite 109
Pontiac, MI 48342
248.706.3304

We're on the Web!
Theartexperience.org

Find us on
Facebook!

Search for us on
Goodsearch.com

Save the Date!
Port's O' Call
Sunday
Sunday 12/5 - 5pm
Crofoot Ballroom
Visit our website for
details.