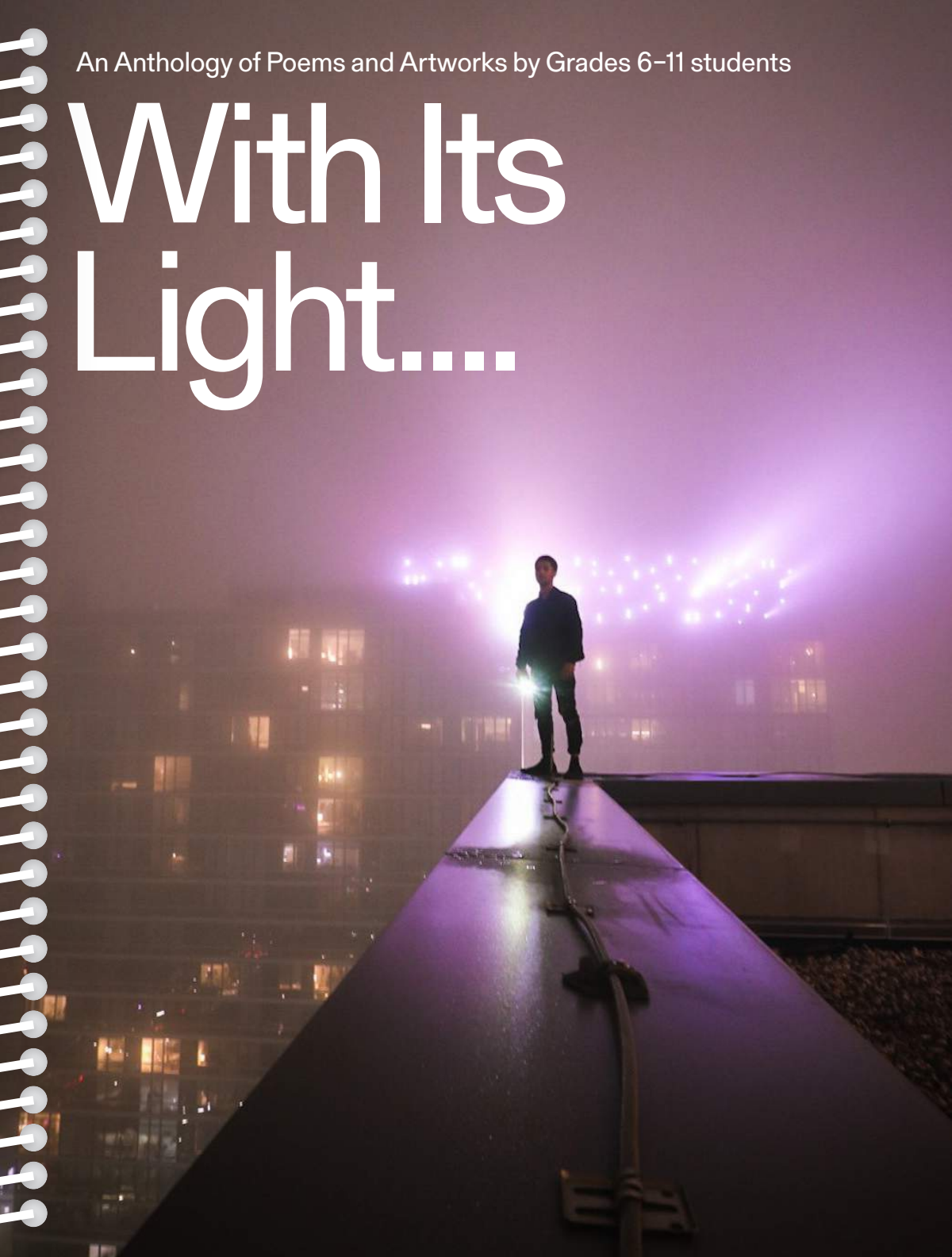


An Anthology of Poems and Artworks by Grades 6–11 students

# With Its Light....



# Expanded Art Ideas

Kate Temple  
Director of Education

The quality of a community can often be illuminated by its flexibility and openness in periods of challenge and crisis. This year, we experienced the stretching and straining of the social fabric that binds us together in this city and in this country. Many of us experienced a kind of personal dislocation and vertigo in relationship to the shift of our everyday lives, which deeply root us in our sense of who we are, where we stand and what we love.

The students, staff and families of our partner schools and our Teaching Artists worked tirelessly and with great creativity to provide moments of reflection and acts of imagination while floating with each other through the internet’s ocean.

Online exhibitions, Zoom live presentations organized between in-school classroom, family living rooms, and Artists Space’s gallery allowed our staff to be present in ways perhaps more intimate than ever before

Among the many strands of brilliance that stand out from this year was the overwhelming concern for human well-being, safety, and care which this spring gained even more profundity as we watched the trees begin to bud and flower and send out new leaves from our windows.

Students and Teaching Artists alike were taken with projects and explorations around the quiet living world of nature. In the silence and slowed-down pace of the pandemic, our students consider this vibrating growing living world that lives side-by-side with us, a worthy teacher and companion, one that teaches us that every life whether it speaks the same language, is moving or still, “is equal to all other lives.”\*

\*Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves, *Conversations with Adjua*,  
Arts and Literacy:Poetry program, PS 140 Grade 8 students

# City-As-School

Claudia Sohrens  
Teaching Artist

Normally, I would take my students on field trips to different neighborhoods: we would visit museums and galleries and engage with other photographers, for example at Photoville, as a way to create a bridge between their singular journey, well-known photographers and the storytellers within their own community. In the past, we would use these opportunities to explore and document our city photographically, but in 2020, with most cultural institutions, galleries and photography labs being closed, we had to come up with a very different solution.

It is difficult to think about community without thinking about intention. The intentionality that each of us bring into a space (whether it be online or in person) becomes the brick and mortar of the community we actively (or in some cases passively) build with others. In the face of the pandemic, I was searching for new ways to engage with my group of remote learners in meaningful ways. And while we no longer had access to the vintage 35 mm film cameras that we've used in previous years, this year students examined the art of storytelling through cell phone photography, giving them a challenge to look at their own lives and surroundings from a fresh perspective, as they turned their lenses and storytelling skills "inward and homeward" to create personal documentary projects of their families and themselves.

We discussed how we can make images that are about "feelings—not facts" by looking at the New York Times' editorial piece "Still" in which different photographers show us the things that bind in isolation. We examined how photographers develop different strategies for photographing strangers and communities, and looked at the Newburgh Community Photo Project "Unmasking the Truth" and we took a virtual tour of the exhibition JR: Chronicles at the Brooklyn Museum. For inspiration and ideas around "family and home" we looked at contemporary photography projects like Jamie Diamond's *Constructed Family Portraits*, Deana Lawson's constructed portraits, and Nina Robinson's *Arkansas Family Album*—and one of our highlights of course was a virtual glimpse into the Exhibition ART CLUB2000: Selected Works 1992-1999 at Artists Space.

We were happy to have the students, Melissa Birnbaum from City-As and Artists Space curatorial staff gather together online for final presentations and feedback of their *Close to Home* portfolios and congratulations to Serena Booth for her award-winning photograph *on the edge*.

Melissa Birnbaum  
Internship Coordinator

City-As-School is an alternative experiential high school serving students from all five boroughs of NYC that offers diverse learning experiences through internships, workshops, and innovative classes. Students come to City-As looking to re-engage and re-ignite their education and become immersed in society around them.

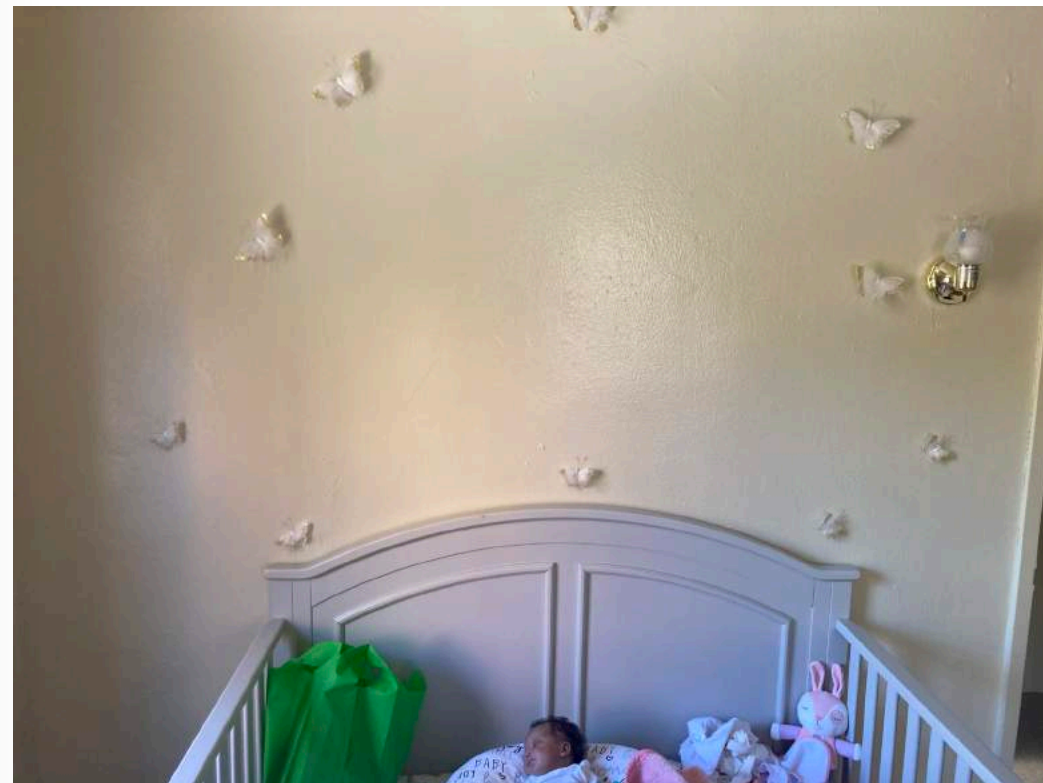
Artists Space worked with City-As-School in the fall of 2020 for their third consecutive year with teaching Artist Claudia Sohrens, who brought them *Close To Home*. Students navigated their surroundings during the pandemic developing their photography skills using their cellphones resulting in images inside and outside their windows. At the end of the workshop, the students presented their work via a live digital exhibition and presentation at Artists Space.

The workshop introduced students to the various visual elements of photography, It also offered them an opportunity to experience the artistic process and dialogue as their focus—something students can carry with them to other future experiences. We are grateful and fortunate for our continued dynamic partnership with Artists Space.



Christopher Parker

My photo essay is unique and might be a little abstract, but those two words describe me as a person. Sometimes in life things can happen randomly. Being alone and feeling alone are two different things, but emptiness can be filled. I was an only child for many many years. Before my sister was born, I didn't really have anyone to look after, any real responsibilities. Now I have the feeling that I need to protect.





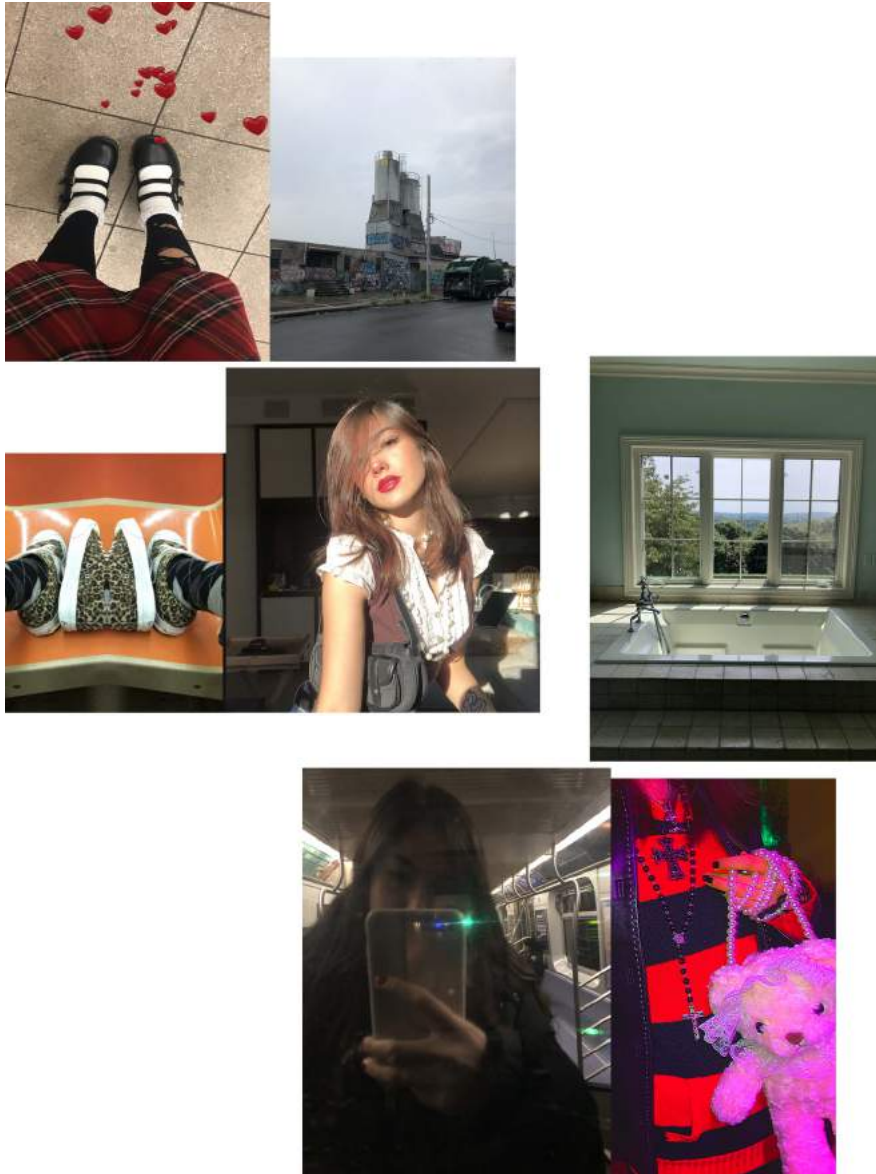


Dejsean Brockwhite

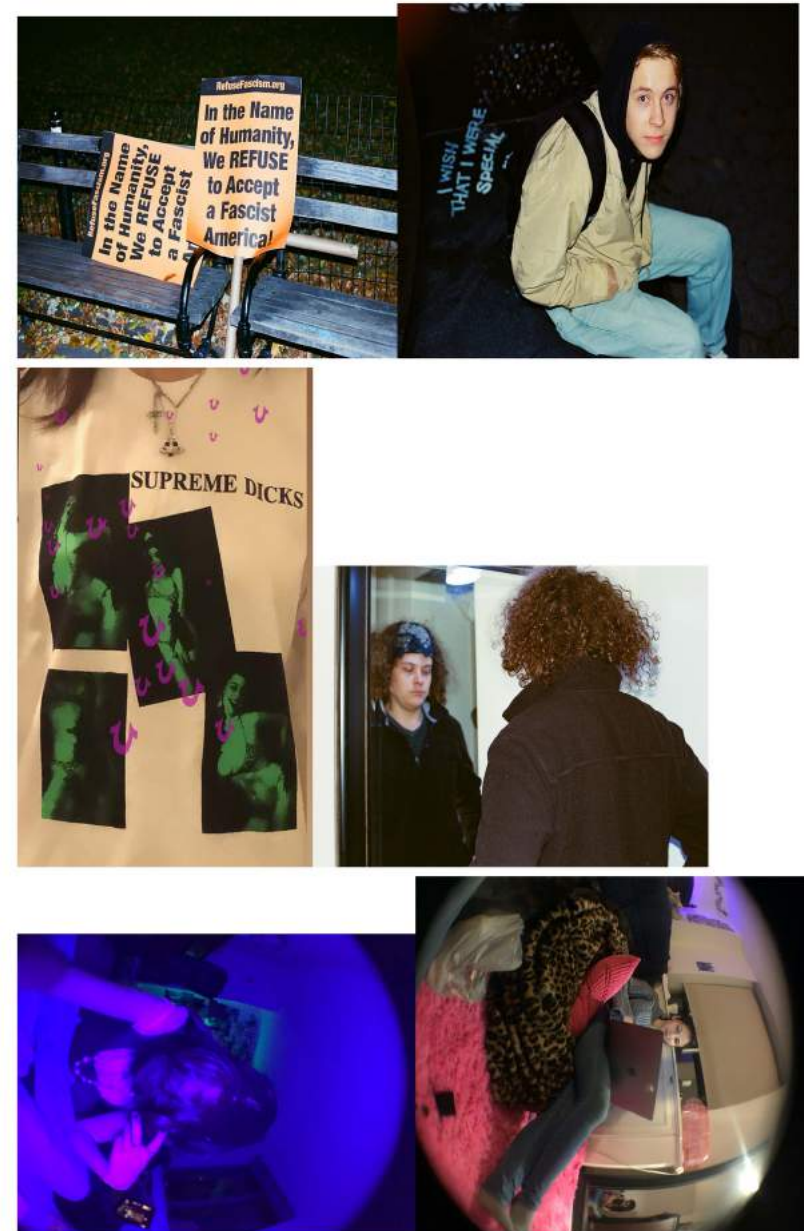




I attempted to show my everyday life through pictures of my clothing, room and friends. There are a lot of lines in the pictures which make it interesting. The patterns in my skirt contrast with the bland floor. I took pictures at a protest in Washington Square Park on Election night. The signs are really reflective of what America's youth is protesting against right now. I have a couple of portraits of friends that I took in my room, some with a fisheye lens. I like to make use of colored lighting.



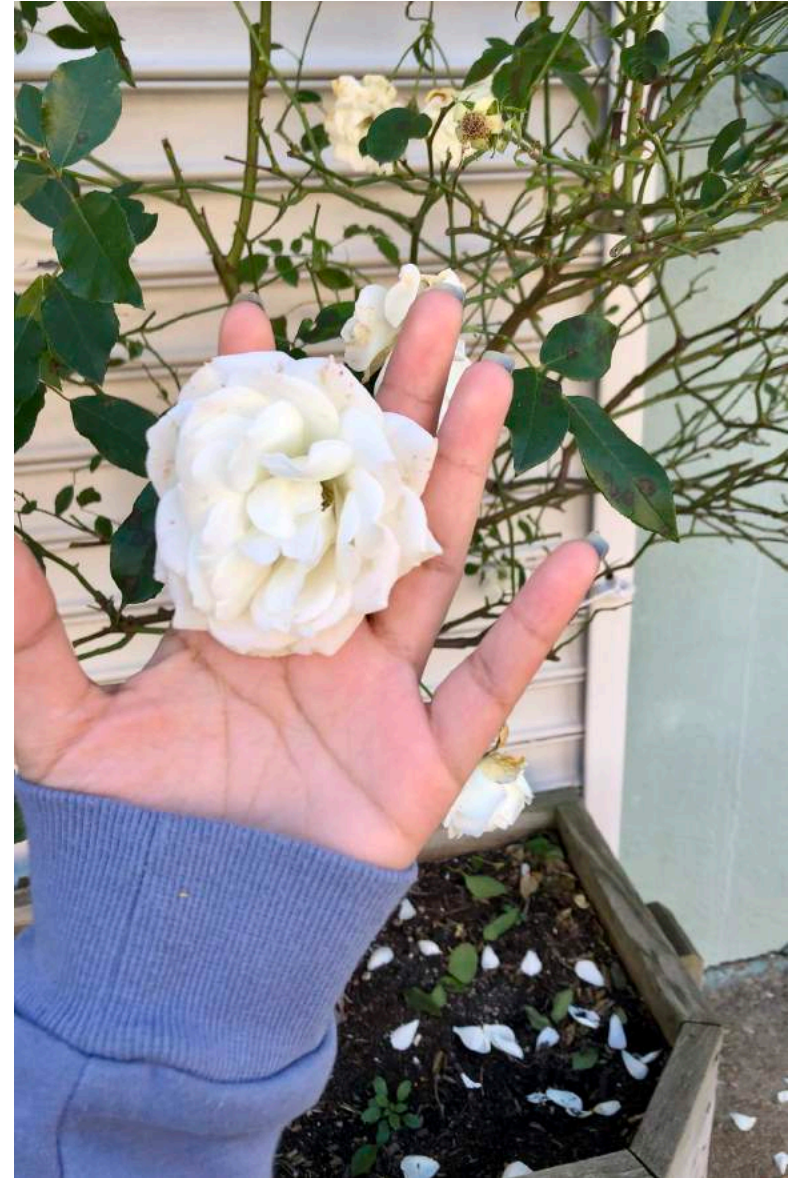
Georgia Pai



Have you ever been asked what you do in your free time, or what are your hobbies, and you just couldn't come up with a thing? I found that happening to me and what better way to figure out what I like doing best by documenting the things I do daily. I like to start my day off with a walk, there is something about the views and the cool morning breeze with the sun shining on your back that makes my days a little bit better.



Josie Olmeda

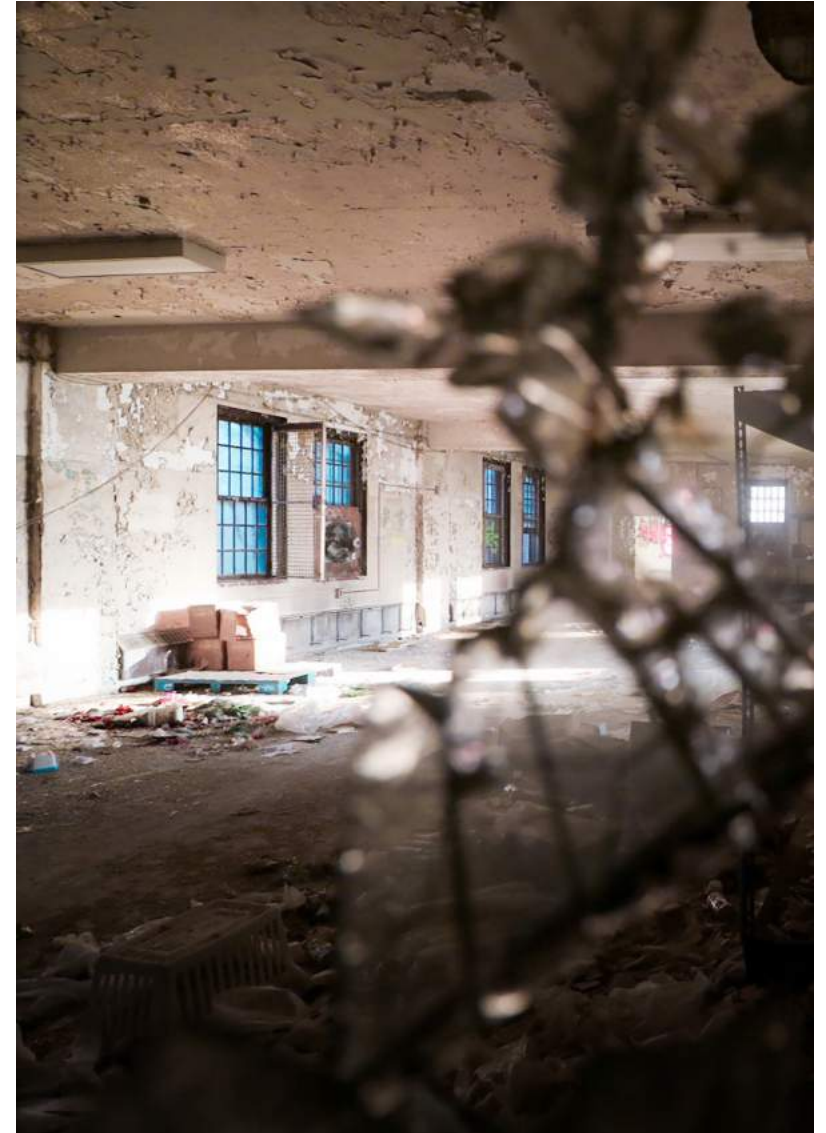




Journal go brrrrrr  
10/15/20  
Its hard to keep a journal because i don't recall anything, since i've been struggling  
to keep up with the worlds pace, its a very odd experience but i'm managing



The world changes in-between every sunrise and sunset, always evolving.  
Time brings change and as change moves forward the world adapts to it,  
tearing down memories of the past and building visions of the future.  
As I look out my window I see whirs of cars passing by, see the growing  
construction sites loom over Brooklyn townhouses and I see people moving in  
packs onto their next destination.  
What I see is time, never ceasing.





A journey very close to home.  
I am coming from an immigrant family and being and immigrant myself,  
my roots mean a lot to me and I'm not afraid to show them.  
When I first arrived in America,  
I lived in Harlem, then moved to the Bronx.  
This is where I was really raised.  
I fast forward to today with pictures that symbolize  
life in 2020.





Within the darkness of the streets of New York,  
the lights, reflections in the rain, the people, and  
the silent noised of the city create a true atmosphere  
that conveys unspoken emotions  
that only those who've experienced it in person can truly feel



# Portfolio

Melissa Rodriguez  
Principal

P.S. 140 is so grateful for our 20 year long-standing partnership with Artists Space. Kate Temple, the Director of Education, and all of the teaching artists who have worked with us over the years, have respected a vision of our school as intricately related to the arts and have continuously helped it evolve. It has been our privilege to work with the Artists Space staff and the dedicated and talented teaching artists—Poet-in-Residence, Rebecca Teich, visual artist Stephanie Costello, and media/sound artist Robert Sember.

Our year-end exhibition and reception and Young Artist Perform (YAP) event were moved to an online platform and we were impressed with the dedication and flexibility of both Teaching Artists and students during the COVID crisis continuing their creative process remotely and online. Much of this work is featured in this publication where students, families and our staff can enjoy the beautiful and powerful words and images that emerged out of the year's events.

These programs are offered to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, and the teaching staff at P.S. 140 have enthusiastically participated in the projects as viewers and as co-facilitators. We are so proud of their work in this anthology!

We look forward to many more years of collaboration for the benefit of our future artists.

Thank you, Artists Space!

When I began teaching virtual art classes last fall, I have to admit—I was not optimistic. After an already long day of school, stuck inside, why would any students want to stick around for art classes through a computer? My doubts went away as soon as I met the incredible group of students from P.S. 140 who popped up on my computer screen one by one, all of them excited to learn new ways to create art. Each week, this group of 6th and 7th grade students was eager to share newly created drawings in their sketchbooks; they were eager to learn about new artists and brought wonderful insights when discussing artwork; and most of all, they loved connecting with each other in our virtual classroom—offering kind and encouraging words to each other as we worked on our creations.

Despite the difficulty of each of us being isolated in our own spaces, this was one of the warmest and liveliest classes I have ever taught! I want to thank each student for being such a bright light during dark times—our one hour class brought joy every week. I can't wait to see you all in-person next year for gallery walks on the Lower East Side and outdoor life drawing. I hope all of you continue to shine your light, and that you continue to fill the world with your fantastic creations!







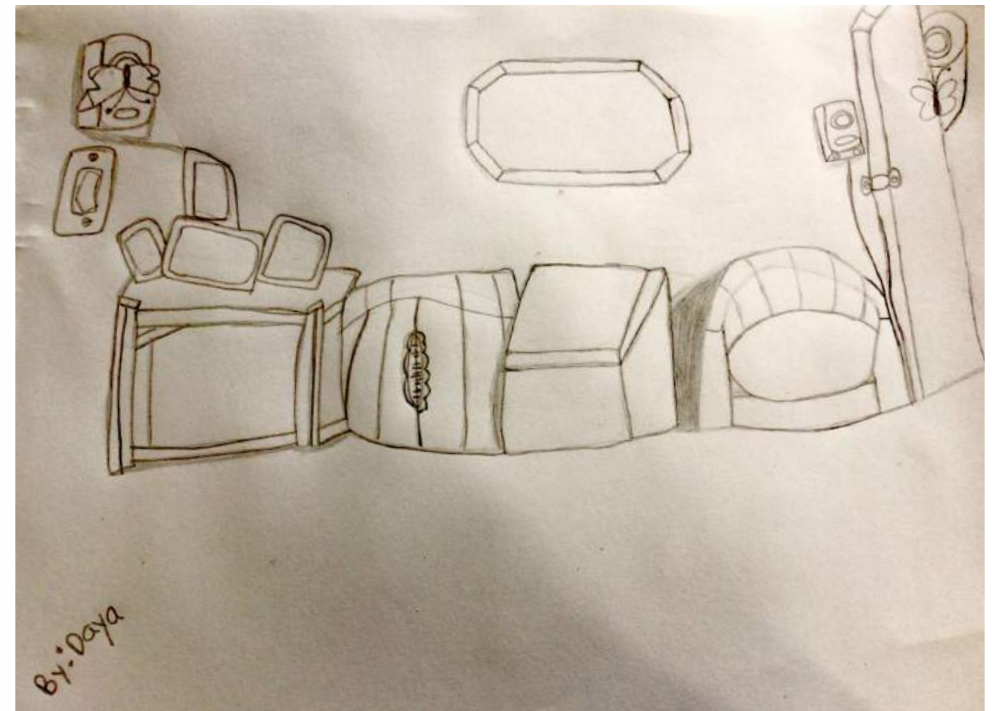
Alaa Obad Collage



Gee's Bend



Calicity Sanchez Self Portrait

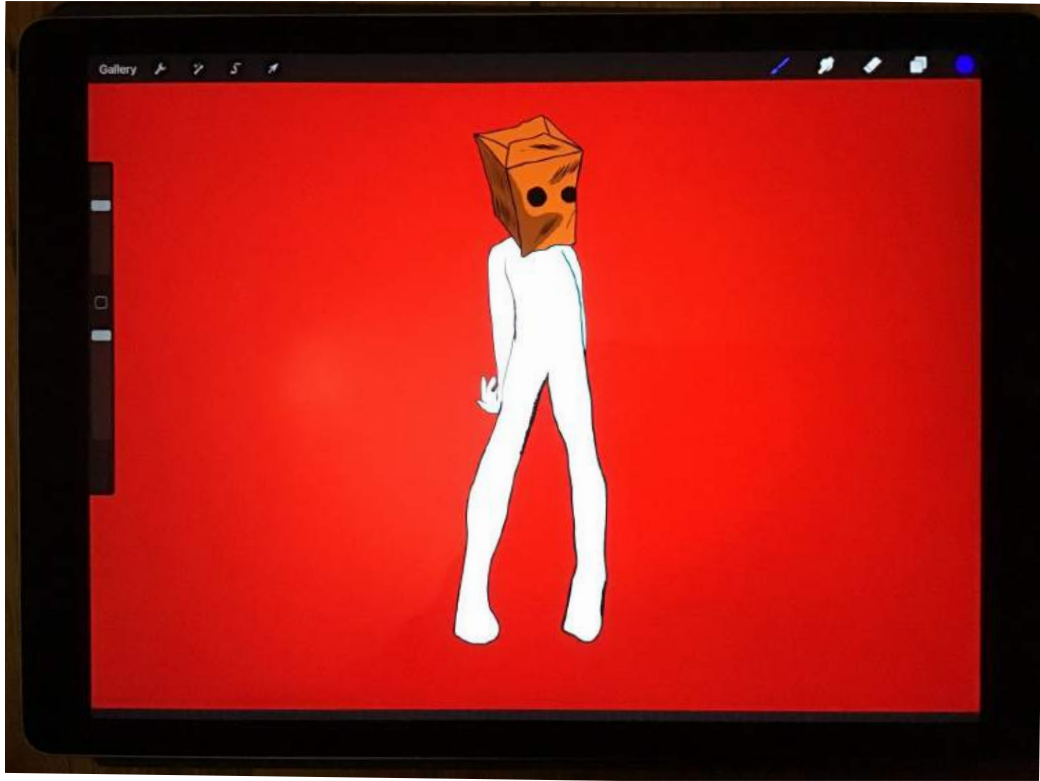


By: Daya

Dayanara Cruz







Willieum Jemenez



Zoey Fontanez Window

# Poetry

Rebecca Teich  
Teaching Artist

Spanning asynchronous and synchronous writing sessions, ever-shifting social conditions, and ten poetry exercises across ten weeks, the eighth-grade poets of P.S. 140 forged expansive pathways for expression, understanding, and exploration. As a class, we read, free wrote, and discussed work by Trish Salah, What Would A Covid Doula Do Collective, Tommy Pico, Aldrin Valdez, Martin Wong, and more as weekly entry points poetic inspiration.

Contained within this anthology are poetic manifestos, experiments with formal constraints, explorations of place and memory, as these poets weave together a critical examination of the present with dreams of utopic futures. Through poems that explore collective living and self-reflection alike, the poets of P.S. 140 teach us that the way to move forward means we must necessarily care for and celebrate each other. These poems gently instruct us about our delicately interconnected condition while demanding a better world. With refrains of 'I remember' and 'I want,' social justice is the heart-beat that propels their language forward.

We dove deep into the work of poet and visiting artist Adjua Gargi Nzinga Greaves and her exhibition titled "*The x in floral is silent when spoken*". Inspired by her work, these young poets grappled with environmental and racial justice from within the context of entangled city life. Collaboration across our isolated spaces became a part of our collective writing practice through using excerpts from the same text-based source materials that Greaves uses in her annotated collage prints—spanning works by Sylvia Rivera, Toni Morrison, Paulo Freire and more—to construct language-collaged poems of their own. Their poems in this collection embody Greaves' crucial words, to "think critically; make beautifully" where we are given the gift of witnessing them continue to hone and share their visions of the world through poetry.

Endless gratitude to John Vircillo, Andrew Brearley, Kate Temple, the Artists Space staff, and the eighth graders of P.S. 140 for their outpouring of thought, creativity, and collaboration that made this program possible.



crowded -  
aalyanna

dogs-kyra

What are some words/sounds/phrases/smells/sights that you associate with 'the city'?

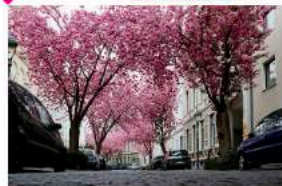


chaos

sidewalk  
gum

loud-nisa

busy-  
Reyna



tree's-  
jerandy

peace

chain

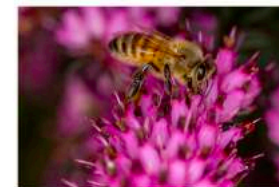
leaves-jasmine

horizon  
lines

What are some words/sounds/phrases/  
smells/sights that you associate with  
'nature'?

buzzzzzzzz

calm-  
aalyanna

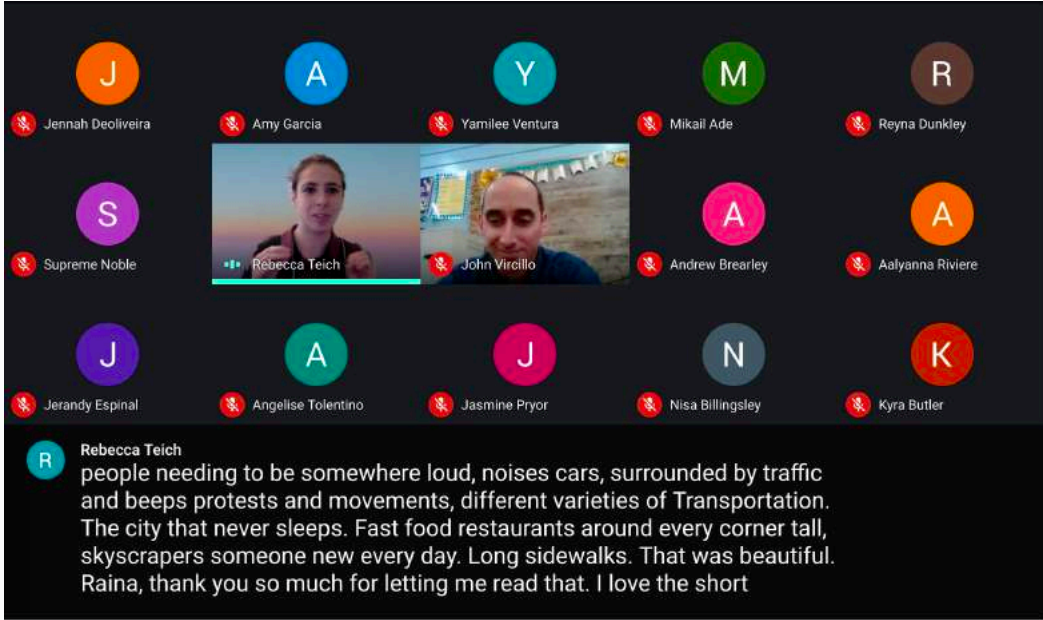
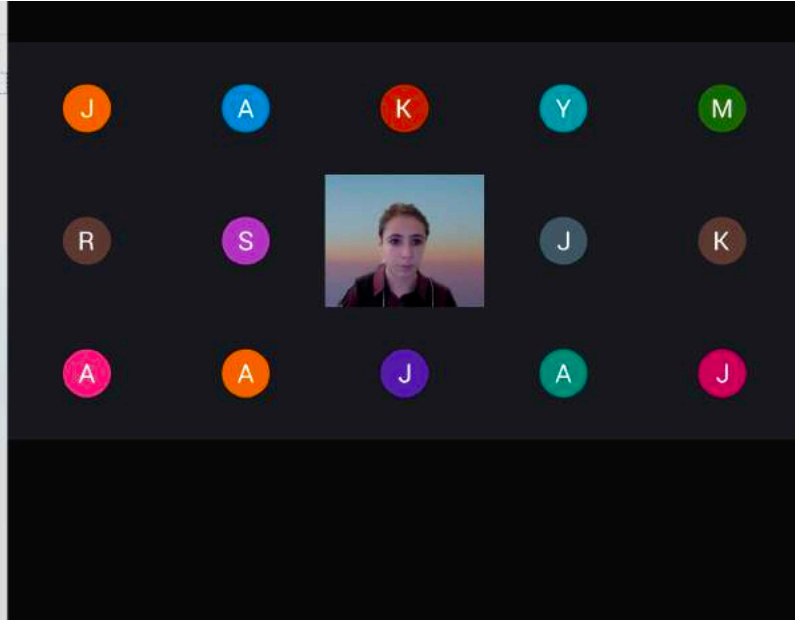


flowers  
- nisa

allergies-kyra

green -  
reyna







We want our voices  
to be heard, our  
pleads to be  
answered, our rights  
to be fully secured.

**we want  
to be free**

**we want  
to make  
this earth  
better**

**We want  
the earth  
to be clean**

**we want  
everyone to  
be treated the  
same**

**We  
want  
to relax**

I speak kindly to my inner self while making sure you're ok, while working on myself I look over other people, checking up on them while I also check on myself. I care for me so I can care for you right after, sometimes I put you before me, but for right now I have to care for myself so I can do better for you right after.

Cars—they are nice, fancy, fast  
Patience is what people need in life  
Houses are beautiful small and big  
annoying people can be  
Kind, helpful, sweet  
Like brothers who can make you laugh  
Brothers can be a pain  
Warm blankets warm weather  
Mafia history of 1900's of New York  
Sleep calm



You can take care of people by feeding them, being aware of their health and comfort them.  
You can show care for other people by understanding them.  
You can receive care from other people by being with them. Be someone that they can trust.  
You can take care of yourself by knowing your own health, feed yourself, exercise one in a while.

Humans are fragile beings.  
They can feel complex emotions causing them to break down.  
You can show care.  
You can take care.  
People need other people to survive.  
You can show care for other people by understanding them.  
You can take care of people by being aware of their health and help them.  
Humans are fragile beings.  
They need each other to survive.



1. A city with enormous buildings, many apartments and neighborhoods, kids running around next to the street. People going in and out of subway stations past every few blocks.
2. Lots of talking cars driving, people rushing to work, constant noise in the city.
3. Even in the night there is life in the city, people going home from work, people traveling.
4. People want a change to the city. Less violence, Cleaning up the streets from garbage, Fixing the homeless problems, and more positivity in the world.

When you treat someone kind  
It makes you feel good inside  
Help someone and one day someone will help you  
Even if it's with groceries or when they are  
Crying. Just be there for them without denying  
And don't forget about yourself  
Live your life to the fullest and be yourself  
Take care of your skin and mental health  
And love yourself till the day of your death

Dominican Republic,  
The place where I was born and raised,  
It's the place that will always have my heart,  
I miss it,  
I miss sound of waking up,  
To hearing the sound of motorcycles passing by,  
And the sunrise hitting my face,  
As I sit on the balcony,  
I miss the random rainy days,  
I miss the music,  
But most all of all,  
The family I grew up with.

I remember my Xbox that was boring to me  
I remember the basketball court that I go to  
I remember that I want to play basketball in life  
I remember getting taught by family members about black history  
I remember when I used to play ball in the summer with the bros  
I remember taking a nice shower listening to music  
I remember watching the news and seeing all the covid news  
I remember the smell of some good bake mac and cheese  
I remember me and my dad talking about life  
I remember when my mom said we were going to the park  
I remember the death of Kobe Bryant it was hurtful and I was with family  
I remember watching people playing 2k  
I remember listening to Sheff G Picasso and I rocked with it  
I remember baggy clothes  
I remember ghosts  
I remember stories about famous people like Michael Jordan  
I remember waking up on Christmas and hearing laughing excitement food  
I remember the 9/11  
I remember learning about all the different religions idk what's real

Care given and received?  
Sometimes caring too much makes it hard to breathe  
Caring too little is like a bad plead  
There's no such thing as caring too much,  
It's just a bunch to explain.

I've received care once,  
I've given care once,  
"Sharing is caring"  
Caring is a peculiar topic to discuss,  
It's a thing given by everything  
One way or another it'll bring happiness  
Too little or too big



The sun,  
The way it hides in the clouds,  
Soar through the sky,  
And sting in my eyes,  
Invading my home with its light.

Let me compare you to a bright balloon,  
You are more deadly, aesthetic, and stronger.  
The bright sun heats the cement sidewalks of June,  
And summer time has the whole of New York outside.

I love your hot, bright, sunny mornings,  
Thinking of going outside and catching some sun,  
All day, every day.

But now I must go inside,  
See you another day.



We want our voices to be heard, our pleas to be answered, our rights  
to be fully secured.  
We want the kids to not have to worry about what race or ethnicity  
they are, we want them to know that they are safe.  
We demand for justice around our homes, no more violence between  
those within.  
We want everyone to be equal, black, white, gay, or straight.  
We want Covid to be over with so we can have normality again.  
We need the police brutality to stop and instead for them to protect  
than attack  
We need to have each others' back, if wrong is being done, stand up  
for one another instead.

Alright  
Nobody  
Colombia  
Punk  
Nice  
Barbie  
Grapes  
Bright  
On  
Dads House  
Barbeque  
EW!  
Jerk  
Vivid

You said everything's gonna be **alright**.  
Nobody told me you would **leave**.  
I remember us walking the streets of **Colombia**  
And you calling me a **punk** for wanting my  
**Nice** clothes for my  
**Barbie** dolls I used to play with  
Eating your **grapes** on the way to the park  
The **bright** sun hitting our faces  
Turning **on** your phone to check what time we were heading to  
**My dad's house** so we could have the  
**Barbeque** and party with family friends  
I remember screaming **EW!** when you picked up a frog and put it in my face.  
**Jerk**, why did you do that  
Now I'm gonna have that **vivid** image of a frog forever

Birds chirping clouds grey its a sad and gloomy day, people passing  
by minding their business going to work.  
Day passes the day gets warm the sun came out people walking out  
going out for lunch.  
Kids playing in the park laughing and giggling.  
The day starts getting dark people going home to their families.  
Parents making dinner in the kitchen having a family meal talking  
about their day.  
Kids brushing their teeth getting ready for bed.  
As the parents read them a story as they fall into a sweet dream

The jungle has all different races everywhere  
The jungle has many different cars everywhere  
The jungle has cops and racism hurting  
The jungle has cops who don't hurt it but protect it  
The jungle has people who protect it  
The jungle has many different interactions in it  
The jungle has many buildings in it  
The jungle has many different neighborhoods in it  
The jungle has many different things in it  
The jungle is New York

When you see a bird you never  
stop to think how they feel especially  
A pigeon. People think that these  
Birds are just birds that poop  
Everywhere but how do you think  
They feel flying into a building  
And seeing giant people run them  
Over from time to time.  
Birds can also just hear the loud  
Commotion of night of people  
Putting music also they poop on cars  
I don't know why. Why  
Do pigeons have that thing in  
Their neck it looks like  
Gasoline! People hate pigeons. If  
I were a pigeon I would  
Fly away.



In life you will always have your (family).  
Everyone's is different like some can be (loud) and maybe  
(crazy) and another thing it can be is  
Even (boring) sometimes, but there will always be,  
A (time) when you need them whether they help you do things like  
Make (food) with their own recipe they kept or  
They help you make (money) to go on a  
(vacation) in the summer  
And you can even go all (alone) for so quiet,  
And no matter what you will have a (OMG) moment and it will be fun  
And you will (love) it either way and (remember) it always,

I'm in the Bronx NY where I was born  
tho I'm mainly half Native American and half Dominican.  
I've been to Tennessee, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Delaware,  
Pennsylvania  
and I wish to visit more states too.  
I have a godmother I haven't seen for a while; I went to her wedding  
she was very happy when she walked down the aisle.  
I text or call my 2nd sister while I'm at my house to see how she is  
doing in Delaware.  
I go outside sometimes to get some fresh air.

We want to make the earth a clean place  
We want the earth to be a place of love and kindness  
We want to make a society without racism, where people aren't afraid of  
police who are supposed to protect us  
We want a place where everyone and everything has food and shelter  
We want a healthy earth without out garbage everywhere and worrying  
about the future for the earth  
We want a place where it's easy to get the sneakers you want for retail price  
We want a place where stuff isn't overpriced and where stuff is affordable  
We want a place where it doesn't take artist forever to make an album



we want a clean environment  
we want positive affirmations  
we want equal rights  
we want body positivity  
we want a clean ocean  
we want less pollution  
we want happiness

In this world today there are billions  
Of artists but this artist is  
Somewhat different from the  
Rest. This picture is filled with  
A lot of unique things.  
Words, meanings, it shows he has  
A mind of his own filled with  
Many creative ideas to put on  
A paper and turn it into something  
Powerful anybody that will  
Walk by this will be stunned  
Just like me. It's so amazing  
How a mind can make a  
Painting of its own. And each  
Painting there will always be  
A meaning.

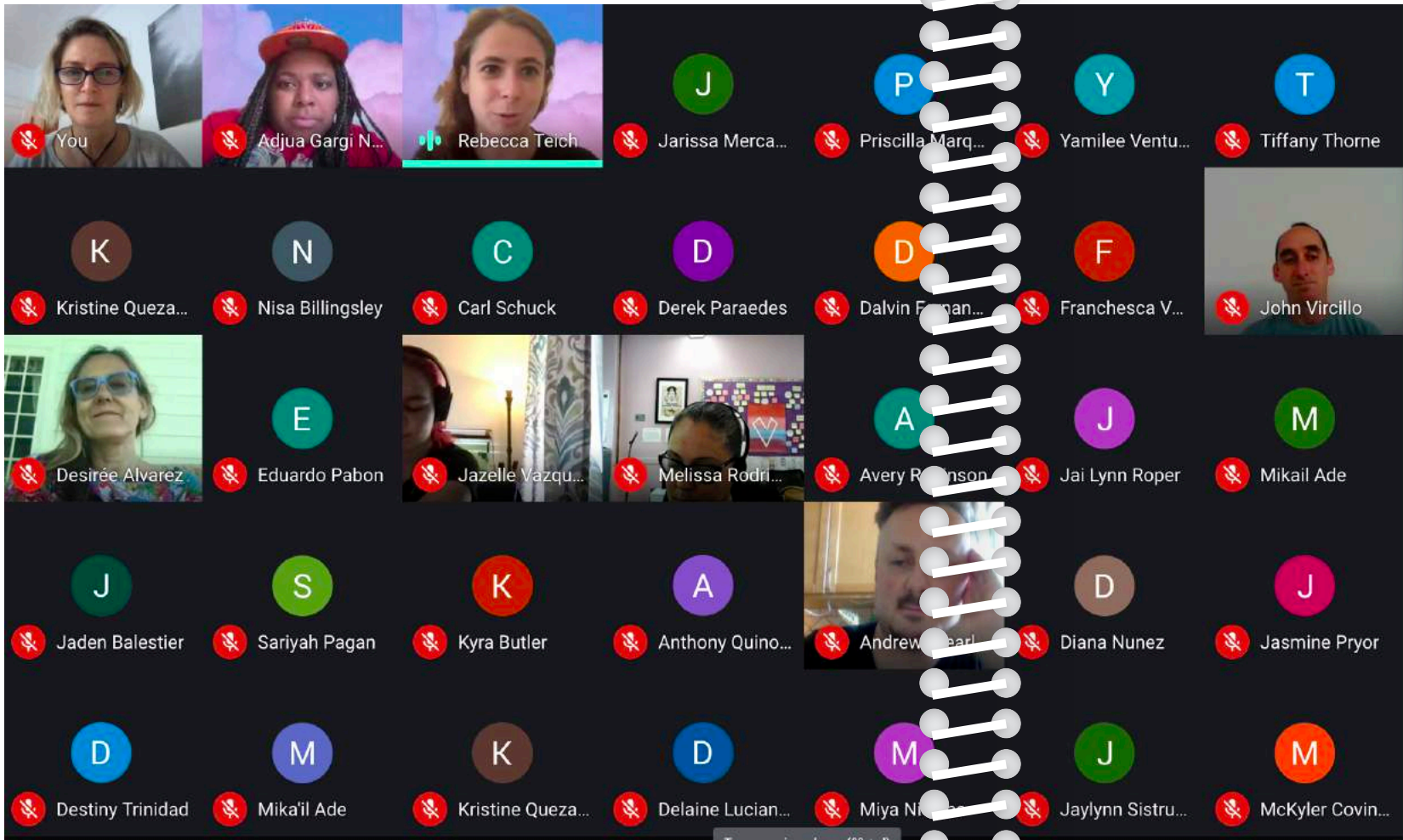


Family is family  
Family will keep you off the streets  
Family doesn't know what quiet mean  
Family needs a mom  
Family will bring laughter  
Family cooks good food  
Family buys you Xbox  
Family is fun  
Family like looking at your diary  
Family love playing games  
Family will love mom's food  
Family is always in my business like OMG  
Family love shopping  
Family doesn't like murder



**Smile** because you have **feelings**  
The **Ave** doesn't define you or who you are  
Stand **Tall** don't give in, be and stay **open-minded**  
So when you **dance** your **November dance**  
You will feel this **UNEXPECTED HATE**  
Inside you **sleep** you wake up cause your drawn to it like **food**  
You wake up think about like **wow**, but you don't you think it's just a dream  
When you wake up all you hear is **CALL YOUR LAWYER**

I remember a box (house phone)  
I remember the beach  
I remember model  
I remember  
I remember a small puppy  
I remember hang with friends  
I remember logging in to online school  
I remember  
I remember when I had a plate of Spanish food  
I remember  
I remember Hurricane Maria in 2017  
I remember when I had to make a big choice  
I remember



YAP: Young Artist Perform  
May 19, 2021  
Artists Space and PS 140

Artists Space Teaching Artist  
Rebecca Teich  
PS 140 Language Arts Teacher  
John Vircillo

Participating New York City  
Poets and PS 140 Grade 8  
students:

Ricardo Hernandez  
ray ferriera  
Caelan Ernest  
Ellis Martin  
mai c. doan  
Neon Mashurov  
Rider Alsop  
Desirée Alvarez  
Ben Fama  
Tiana Reid  
Ian Faden  
Morgan Vo  
Josue Chavez  
Ry Dunn  
imogen xtian smith  
Nia Nottage  
Amanda Monti  
Troy Droussiotis (Amygdala)  
Becca Kauffman/  
Jennifer Vanilla  
Keenan Teddy Smith  
Aristilde Kirby  
Tyler Morse

# Listening to the Lower East Side

Participating students and staff:

Nicola Hanoman, PS 140 Teacher  
Gayle Davis, PS 140 Teacher  
Teresa Cox, PS 140 staff  
Richard Moreno, PS 140 staff  
Genesis Espinal, PS 140 staff  
Christian Bisoño  
Marc Colon  
Kimora Cooke  
Aidan Daley  
Bucheli Edgar  
Mariah Flagler  
Nathan Gomez  
Brenda Jace  
Bryan Jaquez  
Emanuel Jenkins

Aaliyah Mack  
Nasel Miles  
Aaliyah Mullings-Ortega  
Andrew Ortiz  
Lucas Osorio  
Mason Quinones  
Skyla Ramos  
Isaac Rodriguez  
Savannah Roldan  
Orlando Rosario  
Joseph Santana  
Jariany Segura  
Ayendiz Taveras-Rosario  
Christopher Torres  
Elijah Velasquez  
Joseph Weaver  
Ronald Young

Robert Sember  
Teaching Artist

At the heart of the *Listening to the Lower East Side* project are our shared connections to place and community. The quarantine affected both relationships: we could not meet and walk the streets of the Lower East Side together.

Patterns connect us and if we were to get through a crisis like this one we need to stay connected. The quilt-like collage of the screens where we began to meet was one pattern. We were all afraid that someone we love might get ill or that friendships would fade. Sharing how we felt helped us feel less alone.

Some of us described feeling part of something bigger as we listened in the early months of the pandemic to the hollering and banging of pots and pans at 7pm every night to thank our family members and neighbors who were keeping the city going. We realized that while we might not be able to move freely, sounds can and do move freely.

Like trees, we are stuck in one place but wind, bird songs, and the sounds of the city come to us and connect us. We are each like a tree in a forest of people rooted in one place. We wanted to explore this idea more so we invited artists Esperanza Cortés and Kate Temple to teach us about trees and their patterns.

Esperanza had us cut up or tear apart pages from magazines and discarded paper. We had been torn apart. Esperanza showed us how to bring the fragments together to make a tree. As we cut and glued and drew and painted we talked about the beauty and power of trees. We also talked about our family trees: the roots represent our ancestors, the trunk represents our parents and other relatives of their generation, and we and our siblings and younger relatives are like the branches and leaves.

Kate showed us how to make rubbings of leaves. This reveals the way patterns repeat. The spine of a leaf is like the trunk of a tree from which grow branches that lead to even finer branches. These patterns also look like the roots. The patterns are also like the veins and arteries that carry oxygen and nutrients through our bodies and they are like the patterns of air tubes that open our lungs to the air. We really are like trees! And these patterns are like main roads and side streets and building hallways. They are maps that connect one thing to another and then another and then another.

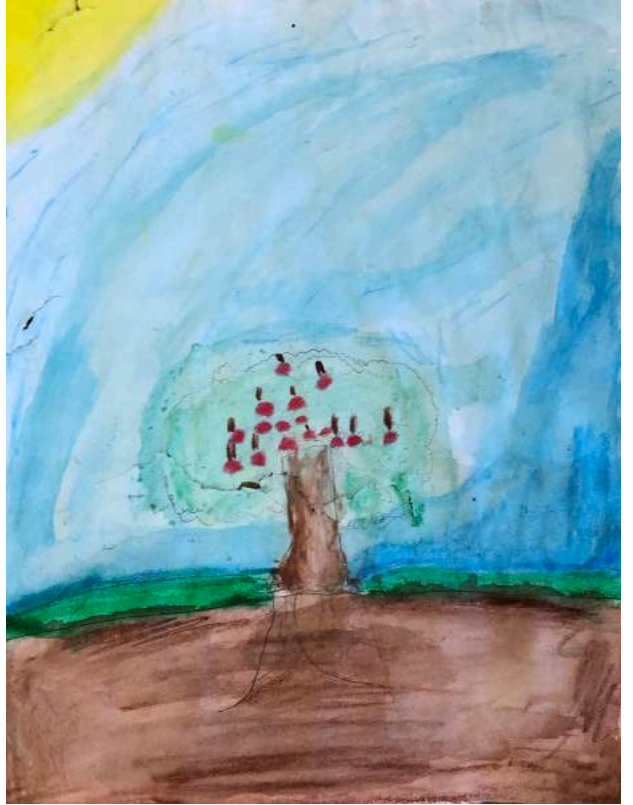
We continue to make our forests of tree collages and tree paintings and leaf rubbings and root shapes. As we do so, we discuss how we are connected to each other and the places we care for and that care for us. An edited recording of these conversations and the sounds we heard when standing beneath trees in the Lower East Side accompanies our visual art works.







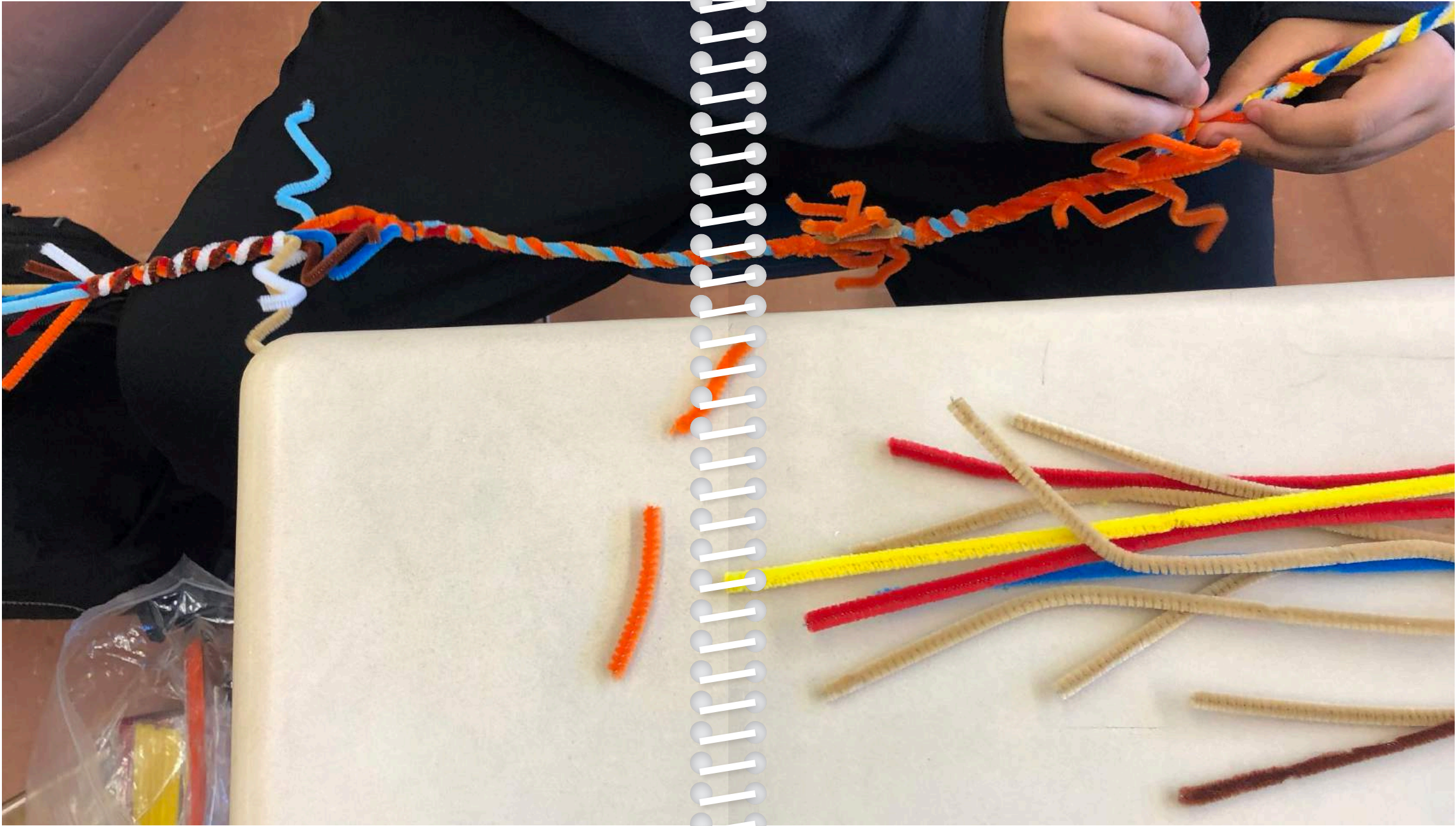








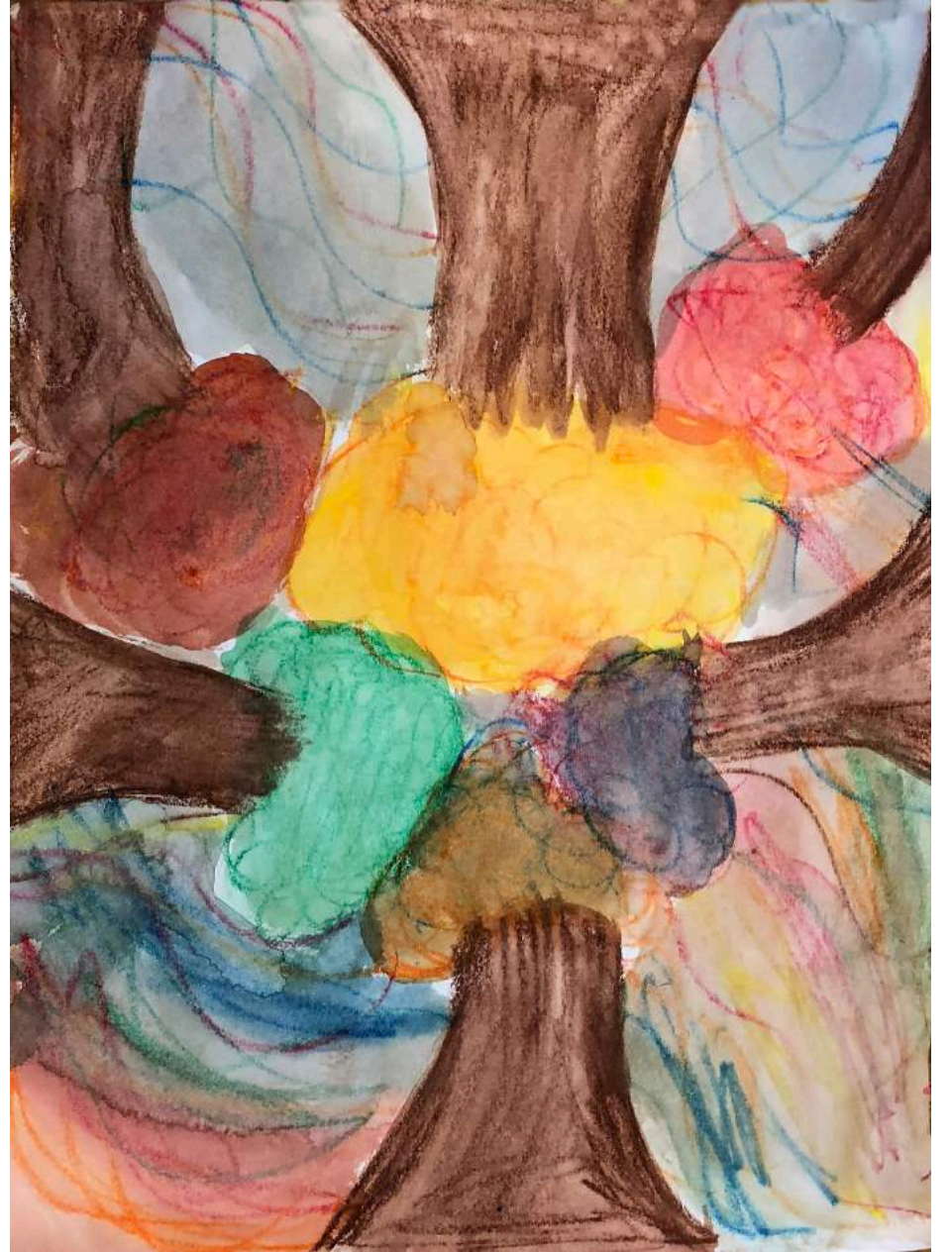




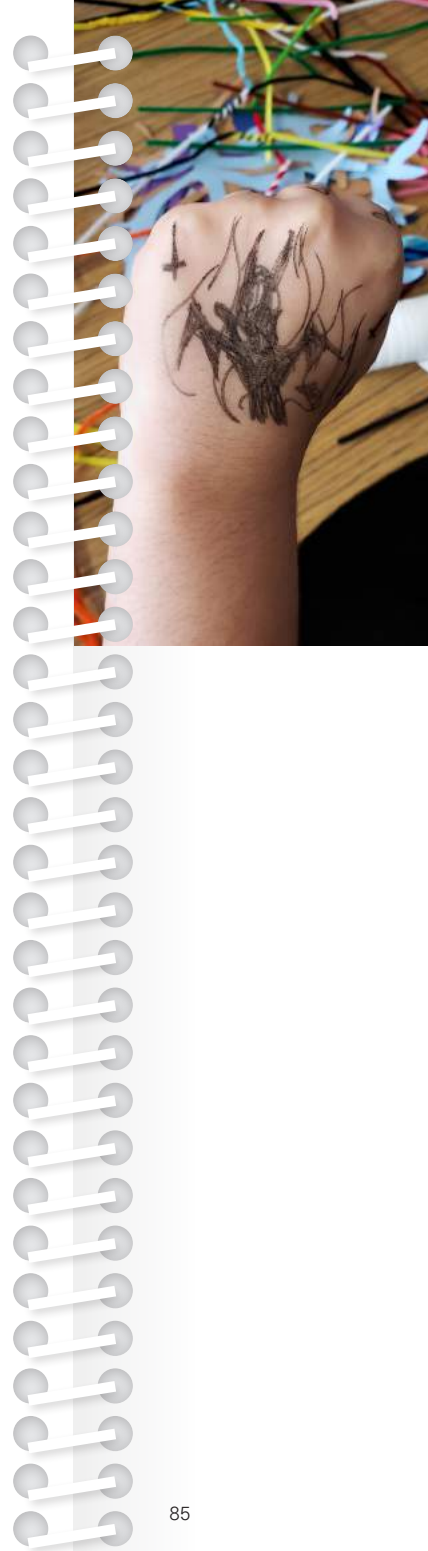
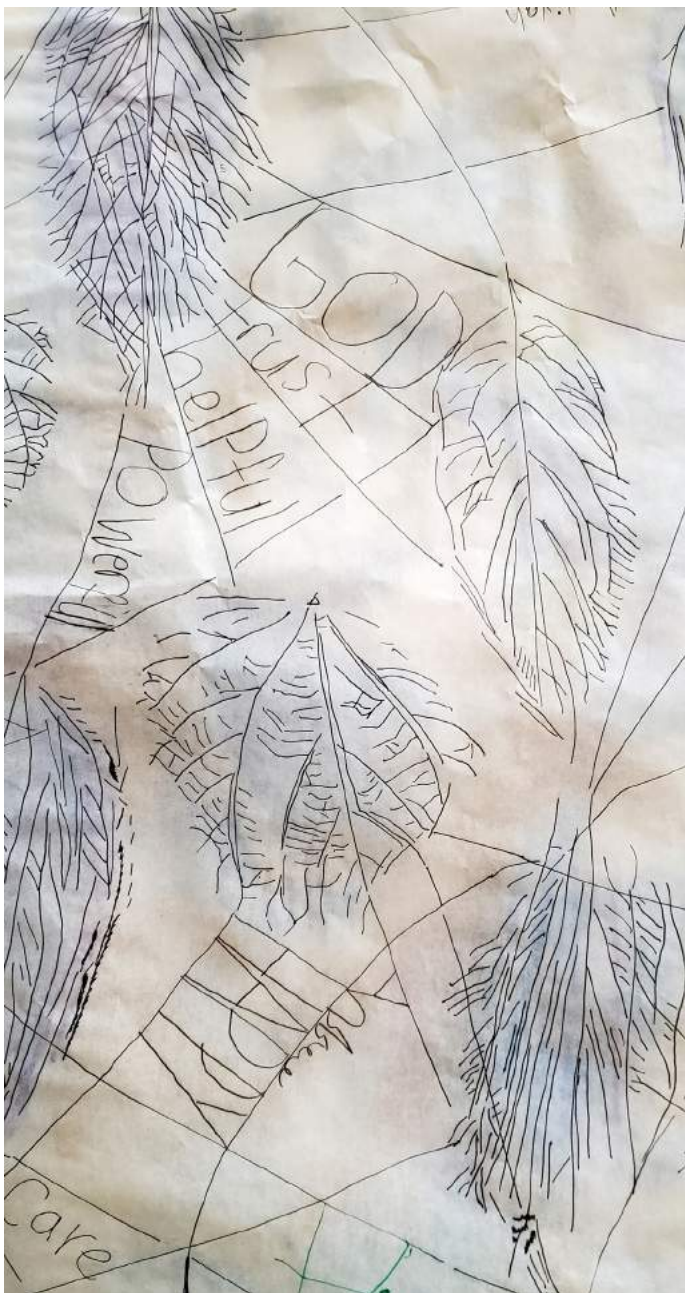












# Portfolio

Lucienne Morel  
Assistant Principal

At M.S. 324, we believe that art is necessary in education. When art education is a priority in the learning process, new doors open for our students. We have been delighted to partner with Artists Space for more than eleven years during which time we have seen incredible program growth and impressive student achievements.

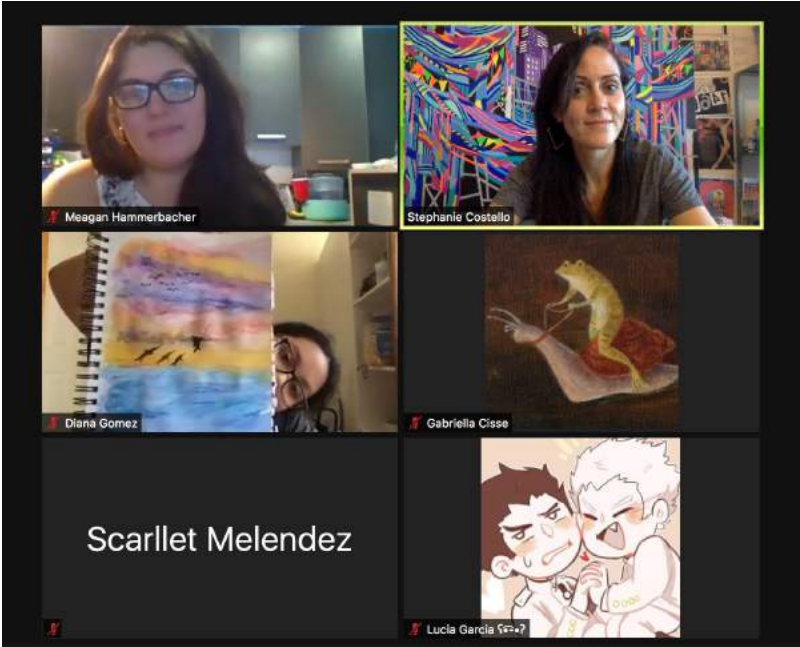
Artists Space’s program, Threads of History, expands 6-8th grade bilingual students’ knowledge of their individual histories and the composition of their communities, provides them with skills to communicate, record, and exhibit their discoveries through collaborative paintings, sculptures, and books. Classes are taught in English and Spanish to serve newly immigrated students and to foster language acquisition.

This year, Threads of History students worked with Teaching Artist, Esperanza Cortes, and science teacher, Mary Guerrero, meeting with students at home online during what was a very challenging year. The works they created using collage and recycled materials to speak about nature and their relationship to family was humbling. This work and the work of our Portfolio Development program with Teaching Artist Stephanie Costello and MS 324 teacher Meagan Hammerbacher was featured in an online exhibition on our social media accounts, and we hope to have an on-site exhibition on our walls in the future.

We are extremely grateful to have this long-standing partnership with Artists Space’s Director of Education, Kate Temple, and Teaching Artists, Esperanza Cortés and Stephanie Costello. We look forward to many more years of collaboration for the benefit of future artists!

Much has been said about the uniquely difficult year of this global pandemic, but when I think of the students who had to endure virtual learning, the word resilience is the word I will remember. The students who participated in Portfolio Development this year accepted the learning challenge with ease—signing on after a long day of remote learning. Our sessions involved conversations about art as a reflection our time, how it mobilized many of the social justice movements during 2020. We practiced drawing figures using slideshow tutorials; we explored collage, and the idea that being resourceful with our materials is sometimes a way to unleash our creativity; and we drew from our imaginations as well—trying to draw our dreams like the Surrealists. In one session, we even drew each other’s portraits live via the computer screen!

The students’ commitment to class and passion for art-making demonstrated that during difficult times, art is more necessary than ever. I was honored to lead the dedicated group of MS324 participants who joined us each week to connect through our love of art and we congratulate the students who assembled portfolios and completed their high school auditions via internet. Wherever the road may take this wonderful group, I hope you all continue to fill the world with your creative spirit!



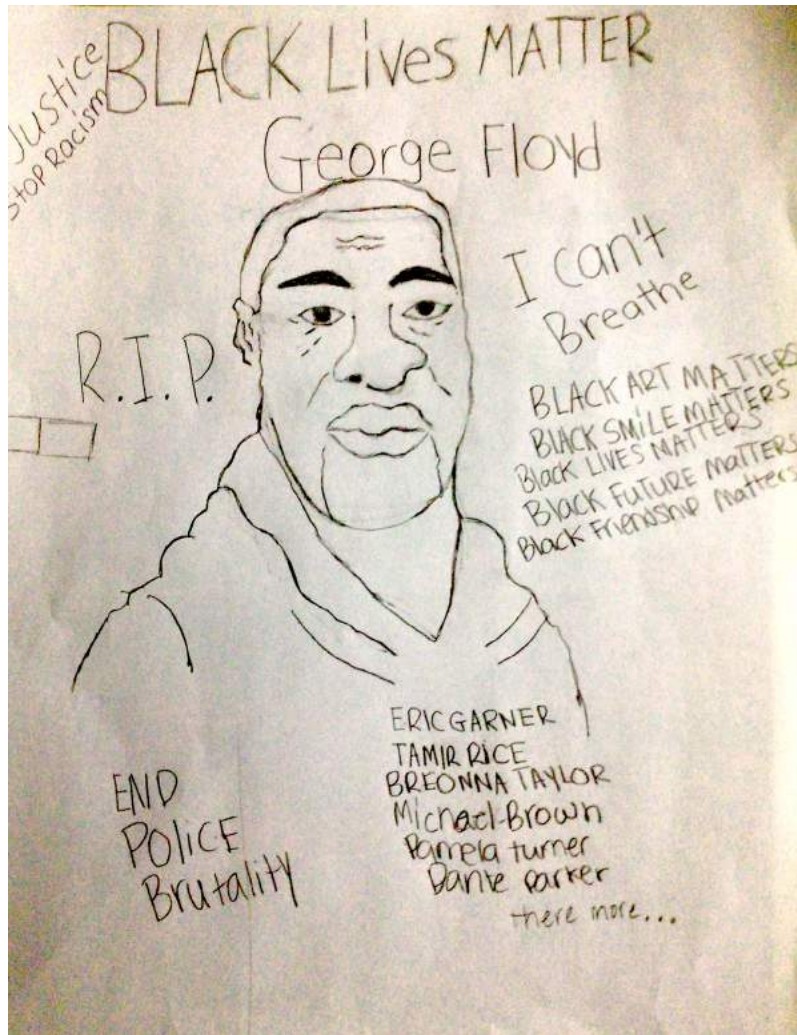


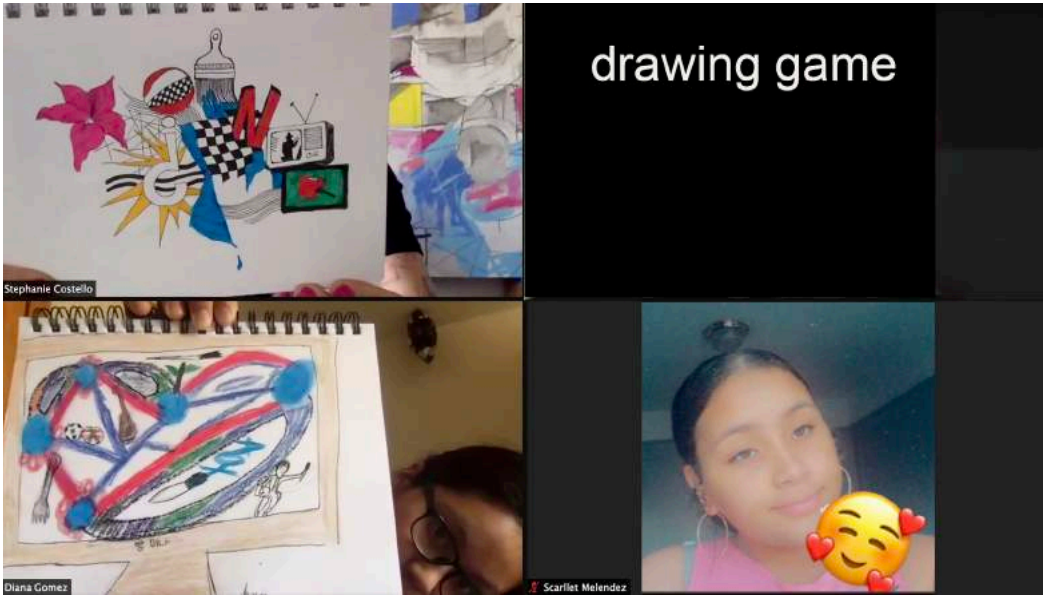


Diana Gomez Self Portrait









What makes this painting seem dreamlike?

What feels unreal, even though it might be real?

What feels real, even though it might be unreal?

Dalí



# The Family Tree/ El Ábol de la Familia



El Ábol de la Familia bi-lingual project aimed at making connections between nature, recycling, the community and the family. During our program we discussed the importance of trees in our environment especially during a pandemic. What do you see out of your window? Nature and the experience of beauty became so important for our everyday life as human beings.

The project taught valuable skills of responsibility and care for the environment and the understanding that resources are not limitless. Their imaginations were sparked looking at art made primarily with recycled material by Pepon Osorio, Willie Cole, Juan Carlos Pinto and Esperanza Cortés. Students collected magazines, foraged for cardboard and received art packages by mail of scissors, glue, paint brush, sharpie and watercolor crayons. Class was entirely remote and we created our artworks at home, sharing progress every week through the digital screen.

We had a beautiful exhibition online with many of the children making their presentation in English, a first for most of them. Each student prepared writing about their decisions in creating their tree, including the kind of tree and the meaning given to all the parts of the tree. It was an emotional experience for all. It was hard not to cry.

All of the children are immigrants to this country. Their introduction to a new city, school and neighborhood during a pandemic was very challenging. Our time together helped them deal with their feelings of isolation, creating a caring and joyful community where they could speak about their emotions, families and origins. Ms. Guerrero was a wonderful and supportive teaching partner during this amazing residency.

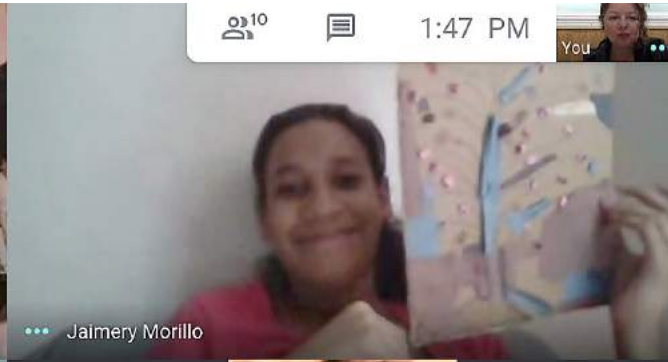
El propósito del proyecto bilingüe El Ábol de la Familia, fue el hacer conexiones entre la naturaleza, el reciclaje, la comunidad y la familia. Durante nuestro programa, discutimos la importancia de los árboles en nuestro medio ambiente, especialmente durante una pandemia. ¿Qué ves por la ventana? La naturaleza y la experiencia de la belleza se volvieron muy importantes en nuestra vida cotidiana como seres humanos

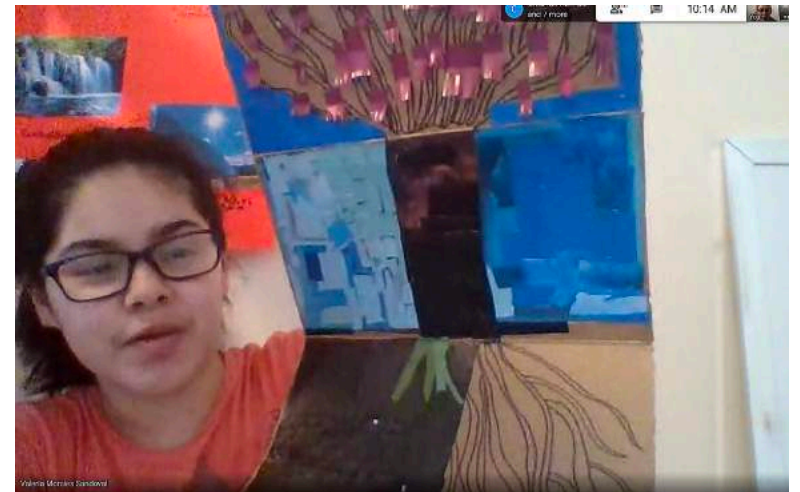
El proyecto nos enseñó valiosas habilidades relacionadas con la responsabilidad y el cuidado del medio ambiente, así como con la comprensión que los recursos no son ilimitados. Encendimos la imaginación con una presentación de arte, hecho principalmente con materiales reciclados, de los artistas: Pepon Osorio, Willie Cole, Juan Carlos Pinto y Esperanza Cortés. Los estudiantes recolectaron revistas, buscaron cartón y recibieron paquetes con materiales de arte por correo: tijeras, pegamento, pincel, sharpie y crayones de acuarela. La clase fue en línea, vía Internet, creamos nuestras obras de arte, cada quien en casa, y compartimos nuestro avance con el grupo una vez a la semana a través de la pantalla digital.

Tuvimos una hermosa exposición virtual. Muchos de los niños hicieron su presentación en inglés, algo nuevo para la mayoría de ellos. Cada estudiante había preparado un escrito sobre sus decisiones al crear su árbol, incluido el tipo de árbol y el significado dado a cada una de sus partes. Fue una experiencia emotiva para todos. Fue difícil no llorar.

Todos los niños son inmigrantes en este país. Llegar a una nueva ciudad, escuela y vecindario durante una pandemia fue un gran desafío. El tiempo que compartimos les ayudó a lidiar con sus sentimientos de aislamiento, creando una comunidad cariñosa y alegre donde pudieron hablar sobre sus emociones, familias y orígenes. La Sra. Guerrero fue una maravillosa compañera de enseñanza y apoyo durante esta increíble residencia.











# P.S. 140 Nathan Straus

Lower East Side, New York

# M.S. 324 Patria Mirabel

Washington Heights, New York

# City-As-School

Greenwich Village, New York

Founded in 1972 in downtown Manhattan, Artists Space fosters the artistic and cultural life of New York City as a primary venue for artists’ work in all forms. An affinity with emerging ideas and artists is central to our institution, as is attentiveness to the social and intellectual concerns which actively inform artistic practice. We strive for exemplary conditions in which to produce, experience, and understand art, to be a locus of critical discourse and education, and to advocate for the capacity of artistic work to significantly define and reflect our understanding of ourselves.

Artists Space’s commitment to under-represented and emerging artists is born out in our Expanded Arts Ideas programming where we foster both Teaching Artists and middle and high school students in under-resourced Manhattan schools and communities through a series of 10-20 week intensive residencies. Led by innovative artists such as Robert Sember from the sound art collective Ultra Red, Colombian-American mixed media artist and Guggenheim awardee, Esperanza Cortés, mural artist and painter, Stephanie Costello, photographer Claudia Sohrens, and poet Rebecca Teich, projects aim to take both generative and responsive positions to creativity and living in the world. It is our intention to ensure that the students and communities we work with have access to innovative arts programming that cultivate an experience of joy, self-expression, and agency within the cultural climate of New York City.

Expanded Art Ideas is supported by The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; NYU Community Fund; The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; The New York City Department of Education; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature

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Managing Editors  
Kate Temple  
Miriam Katzeff

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