The image shows the front cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is dark, possibly black or dark grey. On the left side, there is a silver-colored metal spiral binding. The cover is decorated with several heart-shaped cutouts of varying sizes. These cutouts are illuminated from within, creating a warm, yellowish-gold glow. The light from the hearts casts a soft, blueish-grey shadow onto the dark background of the cover. The overall aesthetic is artistic and evocative, fitting the title 'Blooming In A Dark Room'.

An Anthology of Poems and Artworks by Grades 6–12 students

Blooming In A Dark Room

Expanded Art Ideas

Kate Temple
Director of Education

Artists Space is pleased to present *Blooming In A Dark Room*, featuring the wise words and insights of middle and high school students working in our innovative art and education program Expanded Art Ideas, initiated in September 2001 and now in its 22nd year of continuous activity. Grounded in the social and collaborative nature of creative inquiry within the greater New York City community of artists, Expanded Art Ideas recognizes artists and young people as central activators in responding to the concerns and issues of our time.

Through sound recording, digital and analog photography, spoken and written word, mixed media and found sculpture, painting and drawing, these young artists have investigated themselves and the spaces they inhabit posing questions about the complexities of life- the tensions between empathetic and individual space, how to understand history and what it means to create new meaning, while offering a series of poignant observations and responses about love, friendship and the future.

Grappling with the future as a vehicle to explore the unknown, *What Do We Do When A Door Opens?* and the prose poem *Umbra* illuminate a central theme young people are experiencing- change and the unknown and its potentiality for fear, resistance, surprise and transformation.

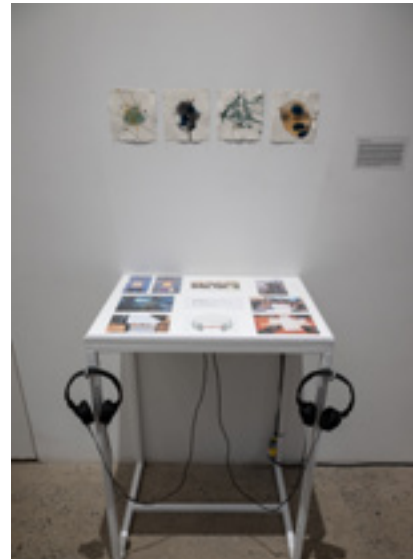
Through documenting the living streets of New York City, looking at art and speaking with artists and curators, listening to the sounds of New York City waterways and park life, students have mined materials and sensory perceptions to build up new tools to start conversations with the living things that inhabit our world- silent, speaking, chirping, barking, hissing and rustling.

These works invite us to keep our doors open.

Much thanks to Artists Space Teaching Artists and staff and our partner school staffs for having steadily accompanied our young artists through this year-long practice of open-ended listening and self-inquiry.

Sidewalk Archives

In April 2023, Artists Space featured *Sidewalk Archives* an exhibition in our lower atrium gallery featuring a selection of sound, video and installation work produced by middle and high school students participating in Expanded Art Ideas programming.



ARTstudio

Stephanie Costello
Teaching Artist

We began our year by asking the question: “What do we mean when we talk about seeing?” Is it *looking*? Is it *watching*? Is it glancing at images (like scrolling through our phones), or is it about using energy to truly observe the world around us? Is it about *being* seen? Do we sometimes *not* want to be seen? The young artists in this year’s ARTstudio dedicated themselves to exploring ideas of vision by taking time to study the world around them, and by using their imagination to bring to life the unseen (those fantastic ideas of our dreams). We explored the artwork of artists like Lee Bontecou, Chris Ofili, Ellen Gallagher, and Bisa Butler; we practiced drawing from life—learning how to draw portraits and the human figure; we learned about abstraction and how art can be more than how it looks, it’s about how it makes us feel.

Some students spent time preparing for auditions at art high schools, and we are especially proud of Gianella (Gigi) Sanchez who earned admission to The High School of Art and Design. Additionally, Gigi was also the recipient of a Scholastic Art and Writing Award for her painting *Dress for Virgil Abloh and Stuart Davis*. In this artwork, Gigi brought together influences from two artists living in different time periods, but sharing similar energy—they both celebrated the urban environment, and both believed that creativity should be pursued freely. Importantly, they both believed that we should always approach art with a sense of playfulness—that as we grow up and become adults, we should continue to bring a child-like sense of wonder to how we relate to the world.

My hope for all our students is that you approach each day by celebrating your unique imagination, and that you continue to bless the world with your creations, remembering Virgil Abloh’s words: “Life is so short that you can’t waste even a day subscribing to what someone thinks you can do, versus knowing what you can do.”

Debra Stern
School Counselor,
P.S. 140

We at P.S. 140 are immensely grateful for the ongoing partnership with Artists Space that we have enjoyed for the past 22 years.

Through our partnership with the Artists Space program, our students have been given the opportunity to think, work and act creatively in so many different ways. Kate Temple, the Director of Education and the Teaching Artist staff of Stephanie Costello, Robert Sember, Tessa Grundon and Dr Andrew Torres have been tireless advocates of P.S. 140 students.

The Teaching Artists not only supply our students with art materials and snacks, they mentor, coach and inspire our students to think beyond their perceived limitations. Over the years, with the support of the Artists Space team, our students have been accepted to some of the most prestigious art schools, have been recipients of many Scholastic Art Awards and have been published in citywide poetry publications. During COVID, the team pivoted to remote learning and continued to provide high quality art classes remotely to our students until we could return to in-person learning.

Dr. Andrew Torres, works with our 8th grade students on poetry, inspiring students to take risks, express themselves and use poetry as a tool to connect with each other. The class culminates with a year-end performance called *YAP: Young Artists Perform* where the students share their poetry with the entire middle school community.

In addition, we have worked together to obtain grants for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities. With this program, our middle school students work with Teaching Artists experimenting with a variety of multi-media tools. In trips through the neighborhood, they utilize the city as a classroom culminating in a sound project that includes sculptures, paintings and recordings of the East River installed in an old telephone booth here at the school, called the *Listening Booth*.

Artwork created through all these projects is displayed in *Blue Sky Gallery* our on-site exhibition space. I can't wait to see what this collaboration brings to our community next!

With gratitude,

Debra Stern



Gigi Sanchez *Dress for Virgil Abloh and Stuart Davis*
acrylic and gouache on paper
*Scholastic Art Award in Painting



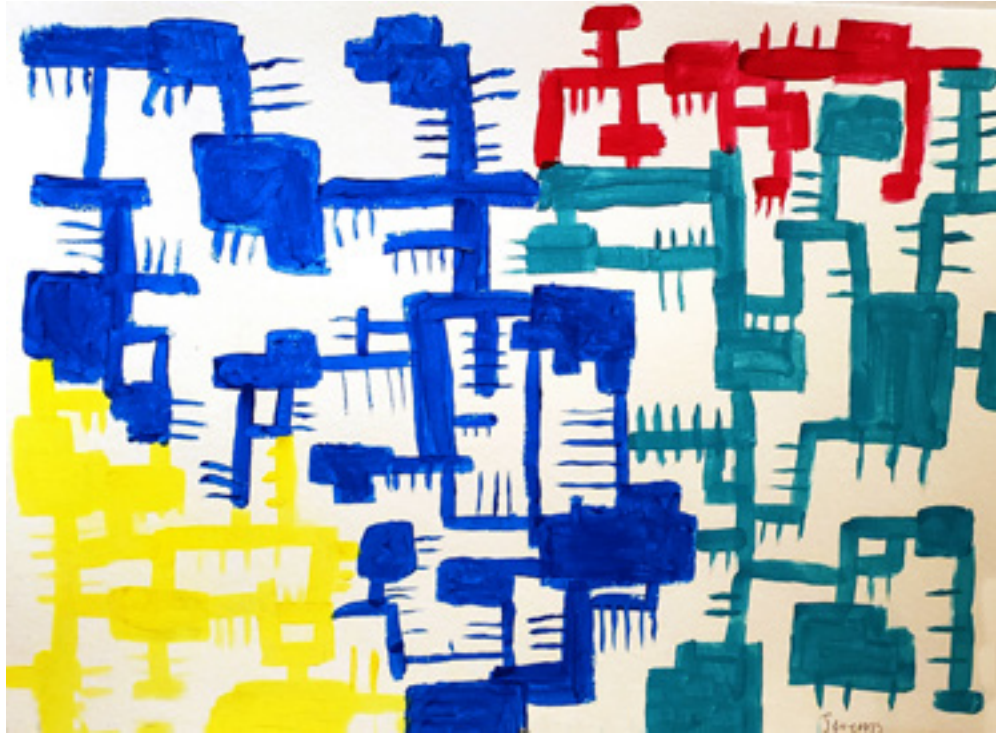
Alexa Zapata acrylic paint on paper

12



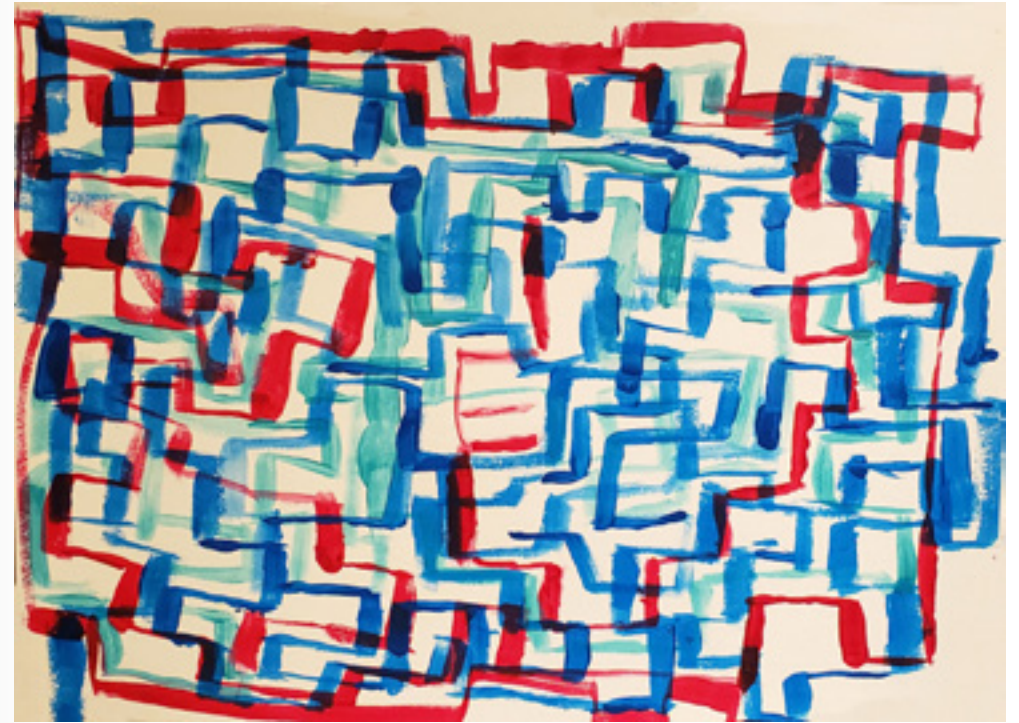
Jael Sierra acrylic paint on paper

13



Jeremey Rodriguez acrylic paint on paper

14



Jonathan Cholula acrylic paint on paper

15



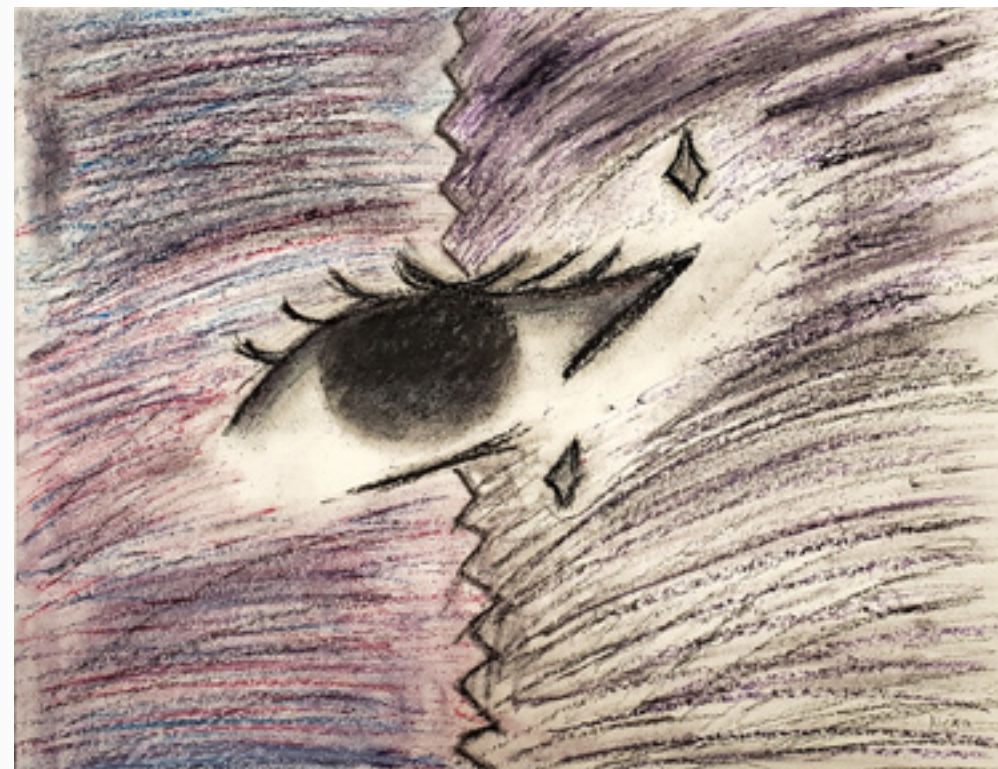
Natalie Adams self-portrait pencil on paper

16



Stephon Davis acrylic paint on paper

17





Jaylynn Heirera colored pencil on paper
Yumeji Cali colored pencil and ink on paper



Jonathan Cholula oil pastel on paper



Ezra Cohen exhibition at Trotter and Sholer
Amy Lincoln exhibit at Sperone Westwater



ARTstudio exhibition at Blue Sky Gallery, PS 140

Poetry

Dr. Andrew Torres
Teaching Artist

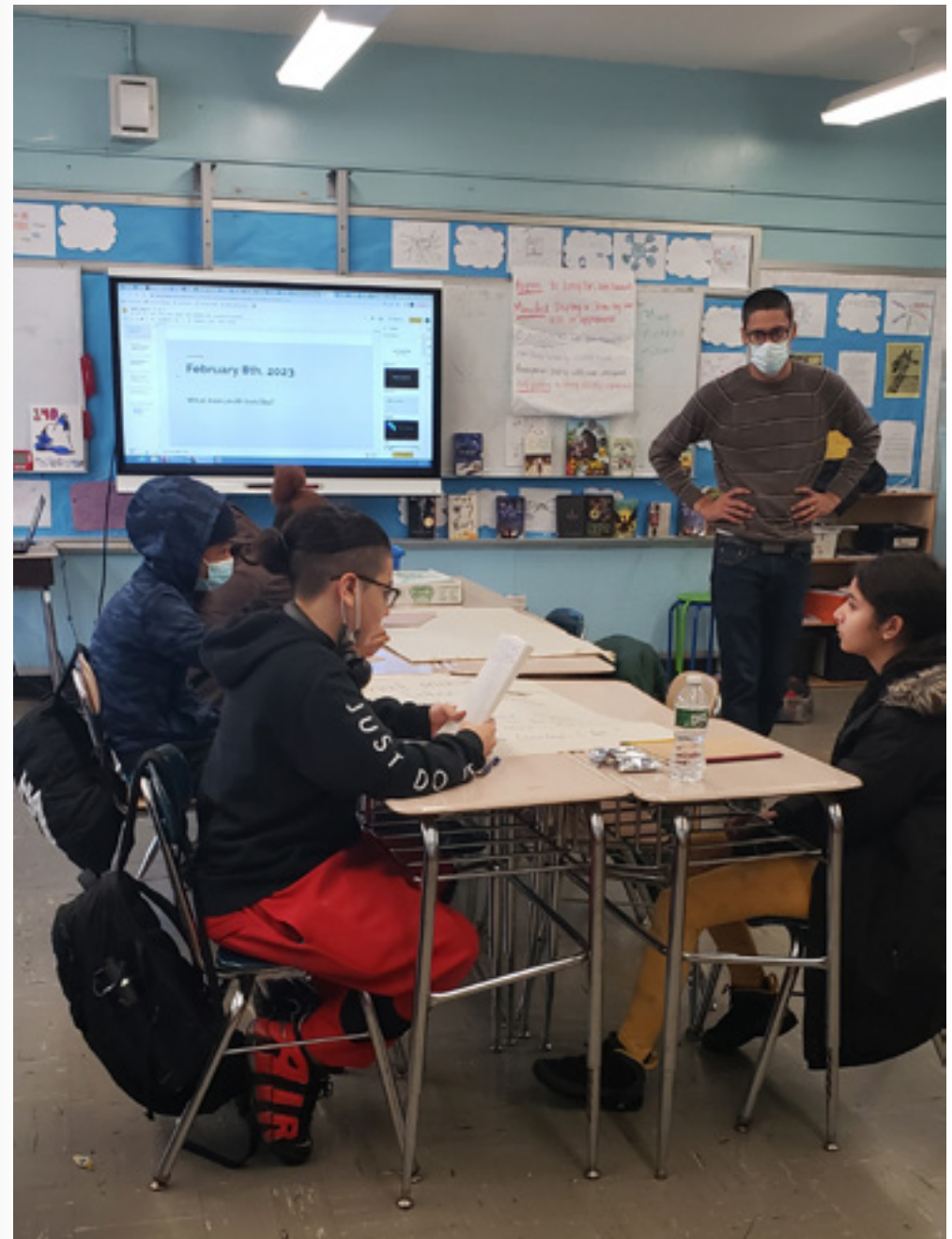
The student artists of P.S.140 came together to question what it means to be a youth in today's world. Beginning with identity work, we excavated the symbols, images, and cultural capital that define the youth of this generation. We explored the depths of our communities using hip hop to engage storytelling with lived experience beyond cookie-cutter narratives.

During our 10-week program we took a trip to Artists Space to immerse ourselves in the line work and poetry of Renee Gladman. As we questioned the abstract nuances of her work, we noticed the connections between lines, our communities, and our words. Through these artistic experiences the student artists began to see themselves as works of art—colorful, complex, and unique.

Student artists created hashtags to use as a tool of cultural expression—salient to youth experience in social media— to shift the ways in which we use words and symbols for entertainment and to affirm identity. We looked at the past to determine their origin stories, like comic book heroes, and wrote to our future selves to imagine new possibilities and horizons. Using the words of artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Lauryn Hill, Solange, Nas, and the Notorious B.I.G. we learned about youngism and youth oppression and the ways in which young voices are ignored, controlled, and silenced while disrupting the stereotype of complacency to show that they are agents of change capable of determining their own destinies.



In-Class Writing



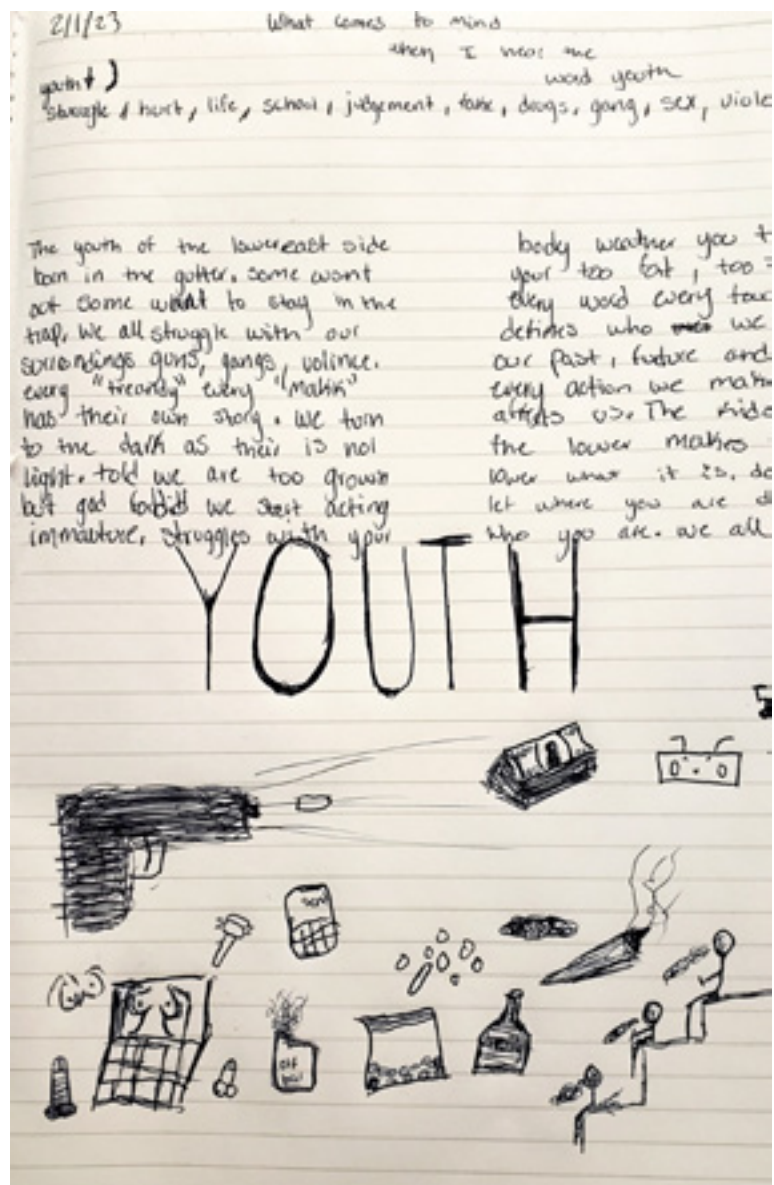
Poetry Shareout



Trip to Artists Space



Renee Gladman exhibition at Artists Space



Youth

To be youth means no actual childhood
 Your childhood is moved out of the way
 with drugs, s*x, and money
 To be youth means sometimes you can't choose
 your childhood or future
 Sometimes it's based off where you started
 when you were a baby
 If you never lived in a good environment
 you want to have a strong future, but if you
 did live in a good environment you'll have a strong future
 Being youth means being scared to walk alone
 in fear some old creep will come to harass or assault you
 Being youth means scared to say the wrong thing
 to the wrong person and you get jumped or something
 Being youth means to get peer pressured
 into doing something that can slowly hurt or kill you
 Being youth means feeling like you have to be perfect
 for someone or everyone to like you
 Being youth means to never actually being
 a child but having to grow up too fast
 Being youth means you can't be yourself
 without the fear of someone hating your personalities

#dependonme

Since the age of 7 you've depended on me
I've been an adult since the age of 7
I would change diapers
Take them showers you leave me to cry and hurt
Sometimes I think of suicide
I've been depressed ever since the age of 7
I have anxiety and PTSD and depression
I've always wondered what it would feel like to be normal
So just continue to depend on me
because I will always be there
because I can't live without feeling guilty
So this is why I chose this hashtag #dependonme

It's crazy how there's more guns than people in the U.S.
Be honest you don't feel safe
I don't feel safe
I don't feel safe when thinking about
anybody can come in with a gun
and my life will be threatened
You don't feel safe seeing gang members
and people with guns
So let's make the gun law more strict
If we do that millions of lives
will be more safe
Think about the children
and the future
On how we can make them safe
Lives are more at stake if we don't do something
because there's more guns than people in America

I stand up for what's right
because it's right
Right is being treated equally
Right is seeing people happy
in this dark world
Right is being who you are

I stand up for what's right
because it's right
Even if the sky is falling
I rise up

Youth

To be youth...
Spending time with family, having fun
Eating a chopped cheese, getting mayo on your shirt
Being youth...
Enjoying the little moments in life
Being youth...
Being young with the time you have
Don't take youth for granted tho...
It comes and goes like a red stop

Too young to die
I'm dat chick
Don't touch my hair
Everything I do I do it with a passion
If I gotta be a b—h then I'ma be a bad one
I see confidence
I see my mom
I see truth
I see self esteem
I hear empowerment

Dear Hector,

Did you ever realize that playing Roblox is nothing like real life?
Everything is pixelated nothing looks real
The sounds of little kids yelling through the mic
On their mom's iPhone 3
I have to mute everyone
but in real life I can't mute them
as they yell in my face
like a train roaring through a tunnel

It's time to fight back
Next the formation of words
that stand for something
Who knew that life would move this fast
Cause ain't nothing but sweat inside my hand

If I told you that a flower bloomed in a dark room
would you trust it?
Recognize your fragrance, hold up
high maintenance
everyone's basic but you live on a everyday basis
I mean I write poems but this song's
dedicated to you
You call your gf and curved me
Ima itty bitty range
She wanna party and you wanna party
but don't approach her with that atari
I stand for what's right while I rise
I can feel times are changed
but we'll always be The OG
New generation old generations
High times lower times
Still standing no matter what
Other people problems are
Don't stop from doing what you gotta do

Dear Misleydi,

I believe in you
Your dreams will come true
One day you will read this
and you will feel proud of yourself
I believe in you becoming
a flight attendant
Focus on yourself
Stop hanging around with people
who judged others
Also, don't get pregnant at 18
Focus on yourself

Misleydi Rosario

The Forgotten Message

As kids we used to laugh
I imagine us growing up
and still being friends
I imagine us living a life together
Nice days at the beach
but then I wake up and realize
you're not there
You're somewhere else
in a big mansion
living your best life leaving me
forgotten
Who knew life would move this fast
and now I remember as kids
we used to laugh

Johnathan Colon

Colorful, linework
Colors, painting background,
painting weird buildings
Mountains, towns, shapes
Emotions messy and random

Messy art comes with sloppy lines
Mush paint and dizziness

This sense of dizziness can make you
fall into the pictures and fall out of balance

Kayzia Thompson

This poem was inspired by a visit to the
Artists Space exhibition *Renee Gladman:*
Narratives of Magnitude



I want to be happy
I want to be a surgeon
I want to have a family by 27
I want to see my siblings grow
I want a nice apartment
I want to still be with friends I have now
I want to not be sad
I want to still be in New York
I want to graduate
I want to see myself grow as a person
I am going to be rich
I will be successful

Lyla Peralta

I want to be healthy and well
I also want to live in a place
where I feel comfortable
Another thing I want is to have fun
with friends
Something else I want is to be able
To go wherever I want to go to
I want my family to be well
in next 5 years
Lastly, I want to pass high school
and get a job and a car
(not a really expensive one)

When I grow up
I want to be successful
and I want money
so I can be financially well
When I grow up
I want to be an anesthesiologist
I wanna keep the friends I have
I wanna live in California
or London
I want two or three kids
I wanna be RICH!

Yo me escribo esta carta a mi mismo
yo quisiera graduarme
y yo se que lo voy a lograr y poder
trabajar y comprarme mos cositas
pero se que voy a poder
en un futuro lograr todas mis metas y sueños
que tengo y cuando lo aga me dire a mi misma
y asi ire diciendame cada vez que cumpla una
meta mas por que yo se que yo en un futuro
voy a lograr tenerlo y me sentire orgullosa
de mi mismo cuando le compre un carro
a mi mama o una casa o igual
yo me compro un carro o una casa
yo se que lo voy a lograr si lose y poder
cuidarles a mis hermanas mi familia
y lograrlo para que las personas vean
que si se lo proponen cumplen

Music

Music to me is calming
Music can be loud. It is loud,
but music is beautiful
Music can make you feel
Music can make you feel joy
Music can make you feel sorrow
Music can make you feel
like nothing can break you
make you feel fearless
Music to me is how you see your true self

Don't push me cause
I'm close to the edge
I'm trying not to lose my head
Don't touch my pride
They say the glory's all mine
Don't test my mouth
They say the truth is my sound
If it's my life, ain't nobody gonna tell
me how to live it
They can't see the way I see it-
through my eyes



Being with my friends is such an amazing feeling
It's a feeling like one that's kind of healing
I know how much that I'm a pain
Won't be too long to be in vain
don't worry now cause I'll be here along the way

#noalaopresion

Vive tu vida
Y no te nagas daño

No hay que
Detener a las personas

Hay que apoyar
A las personas

No te detengas
Sigue a delante

No te detengas
Ni te dejos
Opresionar

Cuidate y
Respetate

Dear Khorri,

This is 13 year old you in 8th grade.
We're doing pretty good right now
It's Wednesday, March 8th, 2023.
I'm in humanities writing this right now
We just came from lunch
Today was pretty good
I'm sitting next to Alicia right now
Do you remember JAKIZ?
Jaylaze, Alan, Ishaily, and Zoey?
They're your best friends right now
I hope you're still together

#noalaopreción

Me trataron de detener
pero a un asi
confie en los demas

Me trataron de detener
pero a un asi
me levante

Me trataron de detener
pero aun asi
confie en me

Me trataron de detener
Pero a un asi
venci mis miedo

Me trataron de detener
Pero a un asi
segoi adelante

Me trataron de detener
pero a un asi
triunte

Me trataron de detener
pero a un asi
Cumpli mis metas

When I start to think, I sink
I'm trapped in between the lines
I escape when I finish the rhyme

They say the glory's all mine
They say the truth is the sound

But I'm way too dope for lies
And I'm way too young to cry
And I'm way too young to die

But they can say whatever
cause imma do whatever
No pain is forever

So yeah, I'll be the one they love to mention
I'll tell them to keep on talking
cause I love the attention

It's how I keep from going under

She's a romance author
 you should read every word
if you want to cry
You should read every word
if you want to see what romance is

Every page she makes paints a bigger picture
Every page she shows, you can see how love can work

How can you trust her
if you won't read her books?
 How can you love her
if you won't read her books?

Anything for the top

Anything for the top, what do you do to be the best
making sure no one compares
can't be nothing less
Working hard day by day, no time to play
we must impress, yes, expectations rise
that you must meet, can't crumble, can't have defeat
Not knowing isn't a choice
all the answers must come easy, said proud with your voice
Known for understanding it all
nothing can change
Everything is already set so all must stay in check meaning
anything can and will happen if something or someone
is in the way
It's all or nothing and we will have it all
even if that means everyone else gets nothing
Whatever the cost, anything for the top

Rainy days only understand me
I could feel it and see it in me
I start to think and then I sink
I never sleep but try to keep myself in place
but the path isn't so straight
I'm a mess and insane
Is it ok I'm losing my brain
Losing my brain isn't all
I know I'm too young to die and have a life ahead of me
but am I selfish that life feels like a knife?

A Letter to My Future Self

Dear future Jaylazaе (Jaybae)

I hope you already got into the high school
You wanted to go to with Khorri and JAKIZ is still together
Speaking of JAKIZ, do you remember when
JAKIZ first got together, when Ishaily first got Art Star
Then Khorri dyed her hair red
When Zoey dated Noah and broke up in TWO DAYS...giggles
When Alaa first become mother hen
When JAKIZ broke up...but obviously came back together
Because we're just like that
When me and Khorri made a tiktok page together
When KHORRI KISSED JULIAN (mask up mask down)
and all the rest of our memories?
Or when you and Bre (Brenae) got together?
Do you remember Ishaily's squeaky laughs?
Alicia and Noah dating?
Hugging Mr. Vircillo when you first got Art Star!
When you were Brenae's valentine!
When ZOEY and JAIME...GOT TOGETHER?

Listening to music makes me feel calm
Like if I'm floating in the clouds
Music is my safe space
My world
Music is the thing I love the most
(not including myself & God)
I love music & I'll never stop loving it
Music helps me focus
it elevates me from the world
bringing me into another dimension
Music is everything

Dear Future Ishaily

I'm assuming you live in an NYC penthouse in front of Central Park
and you are FILTHY RICH
You definitely have a white grand piano in your penthouse
Are you closer with the triplets?
Specifically Jaime, Marte, you're already close with Zoey
Is JAKIZ STILL A THING STOP
JAKIZ better still be close, if anything even closer
I really love JAKIZ and I don't want it ever to end
J-Jaylazaee A-Alaa K-Khorri I-Ishaily Z-Zoey
It probably sucks being an adult and you probably want to die
14 years old Ishaily can't imagine being 19
If you're reading this you're probably missing this
I already know I'm honestly going to miss this
I would write about Aaliyah but she will never be more important
than JAKIZ
FOR REAL miss Aaliyah and Alicia might bring her back to me
HAHAHAHAHA
I got Art Star today
Jaime passed down Art Star to me today
Well I GIGI!
See you later!

Future!

Don't you agree that this generation of children is corrupt?
Don't you realize the amount of kids throwing their life away for nothing?
This generation is spoiled and they are committing crimes when they are young.
Children these days be smoking and doing drugs thinking it's cool.
What happened to the days where we would go outside and play with friends?

What happened to days where we wasn't disrespectful to our parents
and talked to them and expressed our gratitude for them?

If our ancestors were here looking at what the world became of, they
would be ashamed and disappointed to have us.

Come on- we have to make our ancestors proud!

We have to be better and try to make the most out of our short life

Listening to LES

Robert Sember
Teaching Artist

What Do We Do When A Door Opens?

Is it possible that confusion—like the upside-down, inside out time of COVID—is an open door?

If we stay this side of the door will things stay the same? If we go through the door, will life be different?

As we continue talking about COVID, we understand that an open door means knowing change is coming. Our city, our beloved Lower East Side, is always changing. We live that change. So, rather than closing the door, we ask: Why and how does change happen? What can we do to make a future that is more fair, just, and equitable, than the past?

I walked through a door in March 2022, by moving to Alabama for a year to teach college in prison. I meet with students in prison classrooms and help other teachers do the same. I had the courage to walk through this door because I was not alone. You, my PS140 community, were there for me. We have gone on many listening and learning walks together. Alabama became an especially long walk.

We shared a lot of stories on Zoom and when I was back in New York. I remember showing you a photograph I took of cotton fields haunted by centuries of slavery and racism. You all learned about the Civil Rights movement, including the Montgomery Bus Boycott that took place in Alabama. History, we discussed, is a door to the future.

Then a really surprising door opened.

One Sunday afternoon, the front door to my Alabama house swung open by itself. I looked out and saw a snake moving swiftly across the front lawn toward me. Rather than going through the front door, however, the snake slipped into a gap in the siding of the house. I shared this story and a video I made of the snake (a non-venomous rat snake) on a Zoom visit. What did this mean?

Change.

Some Alabama neighbors said: "Kill the snake." For us, this upside-down, inside out moment was a chance to learn. I named the snake Mysterious. Our fellow artists, Tessa Grundon Fievet and Kate Temple, guided us closer to Mysterious as we made art inspired by Mysterious' beautiful, patterned skin, and perfect shape. Brilliant, handmade postcards and collages—some for me, some for Mysterious, and some based on our own ideas of skin and protection—arrived in my Alabama mailbox. Instead of killing Mysterious, we asked: Is Mysterious in my home or am I in

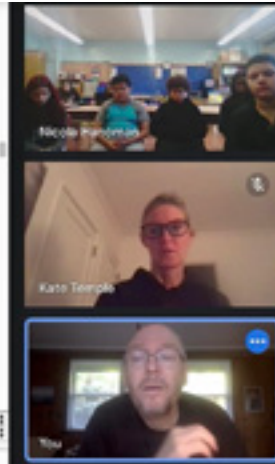
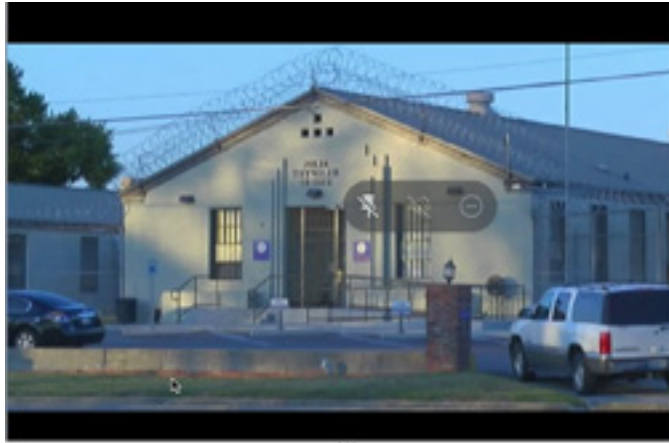
Mysterious’ home, and am I ever seen as Mysterious to others? This question is about all lives we think of as different from our own. If we kill everything that makes us uncomfortable or frightened both outside of ourselves or deep inside, what is left?

History is Mysterious. It opens doors. Some, out of fright and hate, want to kill the truth of slavery and racism. But the door of change is there and we ask: What can we do to make a future that is more fair, just, and equitable, than the past? How do we deeply care for our mysterious souls in the process?

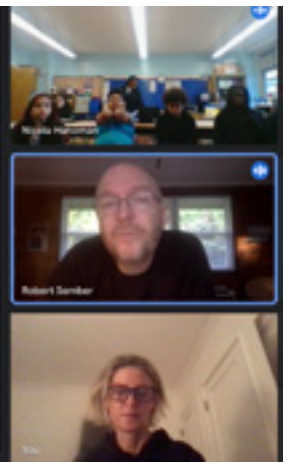
The What Do We Do When A Door Opens? team included our wonderful and wise elders, Ms. Hanoman, Ms. Davis, Ms. Cox, Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Sanchez, artists Tess Grundon and Kate Temple and the talented and courageous students:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jonathan Cholla | Jaydin Hayes |
| Stephon Davis | Andrew McLaughlin |
| Haylie Diaz | Jason Morales |
| Kareem Hilton | Arlyn Rodriguez |
| Evan Mendez | Anali Sapata |
| Aiden Rodriguez | Jose Sterling |
| Sebastian Roldan | Savannah Torres |
| Kimberlee Santiago | Jayda Tucker |
| Ziaree Garcia | Princetin White |

Tutwiler Prison for Women, Alabama



Tornado, Alabama



Mysterious



Collaging Skin



Aiden Rodriguez



Anali Sapatpa



Andrew McLaughlin



Arlyn Rodriguez



Evan Mendez



Haylie Diaz



Jadin Hayes



Jason Morales



Jayda Tucker



Jonathan Cholula



Jose Sterling



Kareem Hilton



Kimberlee Santiago



Savannah Torres



Savannah Torres



Sebastian Roldan



As Robert explored and experienced his new environment in Alabama and shared his stories of his new housemate Mysterious, we thought about what it might mean to be “the other”, who was the visitor, who had the right to be there, how do we choose to share and experience space?

We thought about Mysterious’s skin, how and why we might want or need to camouflage ourselves.

We explored elements of our neighborhood and ourselves through collage and assemblage, collecting materials from home, packaging, envelopes and magazines, maps and found objects from the park, making rubbings from all that we found, experimenting with layering and extracting, then how we felt by covering it in additional layers of “skin” partially obscuring our work.

We made our own snakes, learning about sculpting around an armature and built up layers of skin using tissue paper and glue while talking with each other about our neighborhoods, our school, friends and strangers, how do we adapt to change? What makes us want to hide, to protect, to be seen?





Sculpting Snakes





Threads of History

Esperanza Cortés
Teaching Artist

El Bosque Luminoso Bajo El Mar

Es un proyecto bilingüe intensivo de artes visuales. Dura tres semanas y tiene como objetivo ayudar a los estudiantes a establecer conexiones entre la ciencia, el arte, la naturaleza y nuestra responsabilidad hacia el medio ambiente. Iniciamos viendo la película *My Octopus Teacher* (*Mi maestro el pulpo*), un documental sobre la relación entre un ser humano y formas de vida submarinas, en particular con un pulpo, y posteriormente hablamos sobre la compasión y la red de conexión entre los seres vivos.

Decidimos centrarnos en las medusas y su efecto en el entorno marino, en particular su presencia bioluminiscente en el océano. A lo largo de la residencia vimos videos de una variedad de medusas en su hábitats naturales, con objeto de estimular a los estudiantes, los cuales hicieron dibujos con lápices de colores, concentrándose en un tipo específico de medusa, sus patrones y luminosidad. Así mismo, trabajaron con costura y con papel maché, utilizando telas multicolores, cintas, cuentas y lentejuelas, para evocar la anatomía de la medusa y su luminiscencia bajo el agua.

Los estudiantes se inspiraron en el trabajo de los artistas Dominicanos, Scherezade Garcia y Firelei Baez, y su innovador uso de materiales. Para la instalación final del *El bosque luminoso bajo el mar*, oscurecimos las ventanas del salón de clases utilizando malla, mientras los estudiantes leían textos para la audiencia en español e inglés que evocaban el misterio del mundo marino.

Esperanza Cortés
Teaching Artist

The Luminous Forest Under The Sea

Threads of History is a three-week intensive bilingual visual arts project aimed at making connections between science, art, nature, and our responsibility toward the environment. We began with a viewing of *My Octopus Teacher*, a documentary about the relationship between a human and an octopus which sparked discussions about empathy and the living web of connection between living creatures.

We decided to focus on jellyfish, their effect on the sea environment particularly their bio-luminescent presence in the ocean. Throughout the residency, we watched videos of a variety of jellyfish in their natural habitats for inspiration.

The students began with drawings using colored pencil, focusing their attention on a specific type of jellyfish, its patterning and luminosity. They worked with both sewing and paper mache using multi-colored fabric, ribbons, beads and sequins to evoke the anatomy of a jellyfish and its brilliance underwater. They looked at the work of Dominican artists Scherezade Garcia and Firelei Baez and their innovative use of materials.

For their final installation, *El Bosque Luminoso Bajo El Mar*, we blocked off the classroom windows with scrim to evoke the mystery of the ocean world. The students spoke and presented beautifully with narratives written in both Spanish and English for their audience.

Carlos Guzman
Principal
Patria Mirabal
Middle School 324

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

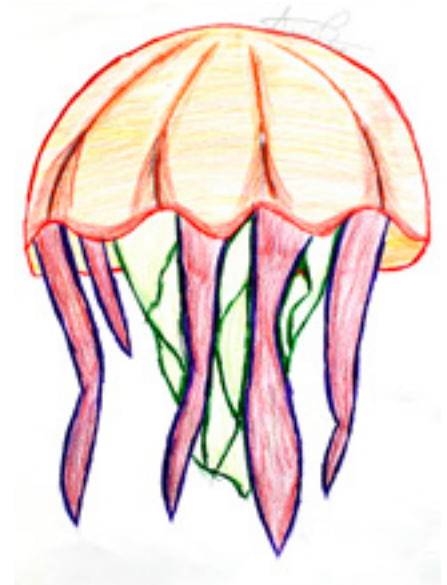
Artists Space's program, *Threads of History*, expands 7th grade bilingual students' knowledge of their individual histories and the composition of their communities, and provides them with skills to communicate, record, and exhibit their discoveries through collaborative paintings, sculptures, and books. 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 Cortés, and science teacher, Mary Guerrero. They used paper maché, recycled materials and collected textiles, learning how to thread a needle, to sew and to work in three dimensions to create an underwater world celebrating nature and our relationship to color and light. These works were presented to our staff and other classes through student oral presentations and an exhibition.

We are extremely grateful to have this long-standing partnership with Artists Space's Director of Education, Kate Temple, and Teaching Artist, Esperanza Cortés.

We are looking forward to our next collaboration in 2024!

Drawings













The amazing artists from Threads of History class 721:

Joelvys Garcia	Alondra Fernandez
Gael Morales	Rowchely Reyeas
Kevin Reyes	Arianna Guzman
Raffy Perez	Maryoris Rosario
Joanyelis Villalona	
Emery Veras	Many thanks to
Dulce Portaviejo	Mary Guerrero for her guidance!



BRIDGE

Claudia Sohrens
Teaching Artist

This year's BRIDGE program focused on the personal and the political in our country, in the city, in our neighborhood, and within our communities and families. We used photography as a socially engaged practice to give shape to urban spaces as we connected cultural histories with personal stories and memories to the places we traversed.

Highlights included a photo excursion to Little Island on our way to Chelsea, where we studied Tuli Mekondjo's *Oudjuu* large-scale embroidered photo-based canvases that explore ideas around ancestry and identity. Students enjoyed Diane Arbus traditional black and white photography from the 1970s at David Zwirner, and Hank Willis Thomas photo-sculptural interactive "retroreflective works" in *Everything We See Hides Another Thing* at Jack Shainman.

On our field trip to MoMA we explored curatorial ideas, different forms of presentation, and how to make connections between photography and the social space, as we got lost in Wolfgang Tillmans' exhibition *To look without fear*.

We met at Artists Space twice a week to research, present, critique and write together. We were treated to a walkthrough of the exhibition *Posibles Escenarios* by Puerto Rican sister-duo Las Nietas de Nonó.

We were psyched to be invited to submit our work to the *Social Photography X* exhibition at carriage trade, and four of our students (and myself) made it into the show. Peter Scott, carriage trade's director, introduced us to Chee Wang Ng, curator of the show *Working Catalog-Photographic Justice: A Tribute to Corky Lee* at the Charles P. Sifton Gallery. We had a chance to meet with him and see the exhibition inside the United States District Court in Brooklyn.

Congratulations to Alexander Graves for his Scholastic Award for *Purgatory* and congratulations to the entire class for a memorable SLIDEfest presentation of their individual portfolios held at City-As-School.

City-as-School is an internship-based transfer high school located in the West Village of NYC. The unique program at City-As centers young people's interests and needs within a framework that prioritizes thriving academically, mentally, and socially-emotionally. As a result, the internships, advisories, and classes are explicitly culturally responsive and sustaining so all students reach their full potential.

Artists Space and City-As collaborated for a fifth year with teaching artist Claudia Sohrens in the Fall of 2022 in an internship entitled, *Everyone Is A Witness*. As students reconnected to school in-person after two years of the pandemic, they worked together to use photography to tell their individual stories. Utilizing field trips and a collaborative discussion model, students sharpened their observation skills as they explored a variety of visual elements as photographers.

Students' final projects reflected the diversity of the cohort. Students brilliantly and with great sensitivity chronicled their identity, mental health, beliefs, and daily lives as witnesses to NYC and its rhythms. The results were stories of struggle, triumph and future hope.

Thank you to Artists Space for providing our students with this powerful learning experience.



UMBRA

the fully shaded inner region of a shadow cast by an opaque object, especially the area on the earth or moon experiencing the total phase of an eclipse.

.....The silence isn't deafening, it is beautiful.

We are never alone.

Loneliness isn't what defines the dark, it is the unknown beneath the shadows that does.

There is so much beauty in that.

We the seekers of the dark, are the ones who notice.

Excerpt from Umbra



Alexander Graves Essential Object

116



Purgatory
Scholastic Art Award in Photography

117

CAVITY

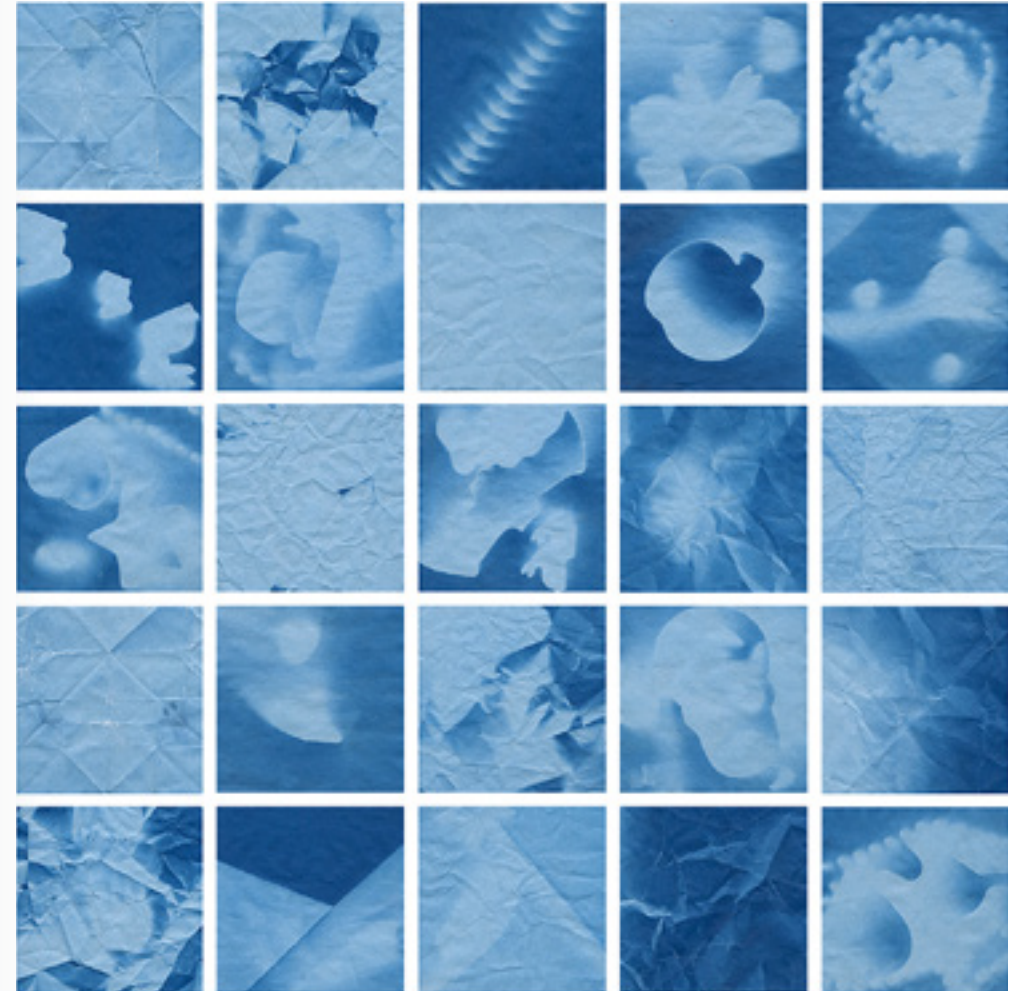
an empty space within a solid object

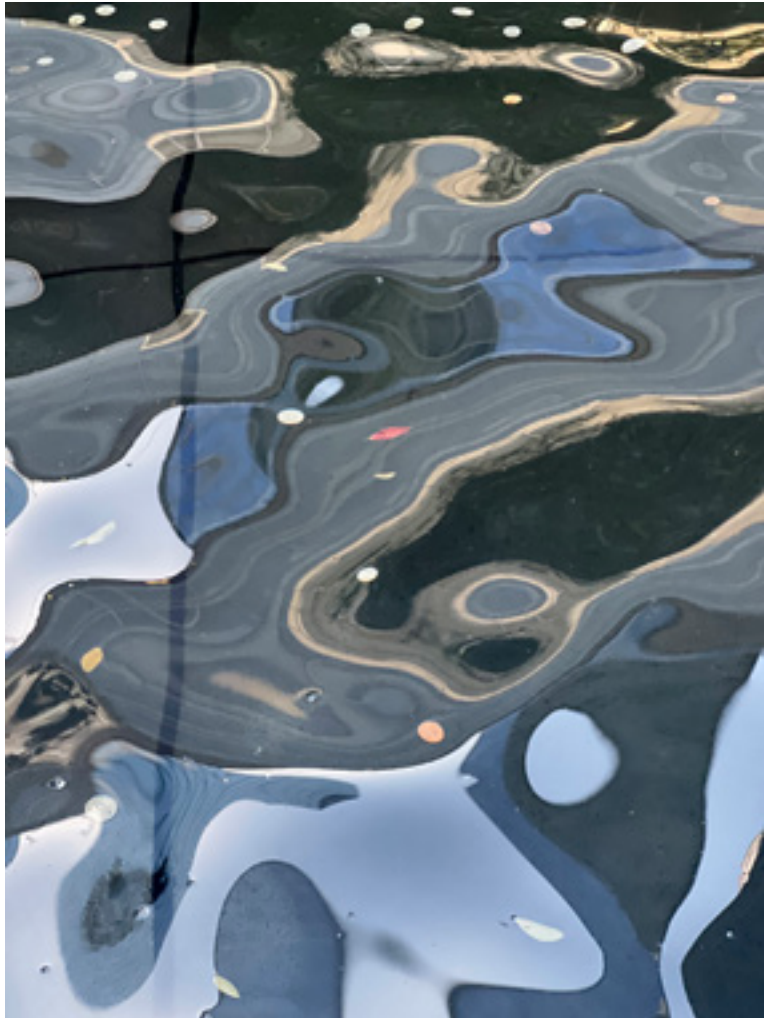
The city has cavities eating away at its teeth.

The city feels like an empty void when you don't acknowledge
the people you pass by everyday - it goes to show how spacious everything truly is.

The streets are clean or so they say. The trees are dead few far and between.

Hidden in the city's mouth are deceit and lies,
and now its teeth are rotting and soon will die,
thanks their foolish pride.





Dwayne Sanders



Elani Ortiz



Juan Rodriguez



Michelle Liu



Saif Abaza



Yana Holman

Visiting Wolfgang Tillmans and Barbara Kruger exhibitions at MOMA



On-site at Artists Space





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 Art 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 Dr. Andrew Torres, 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 Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature and by the Friends of Artists Space Expanded Art Ideas.

With special thanks to all the students, teachers, and school administrators for their ongoing dedication.

Special thanks to German Herrera for Spanish text translation.

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Kate Temple
Rezarta Seferi

