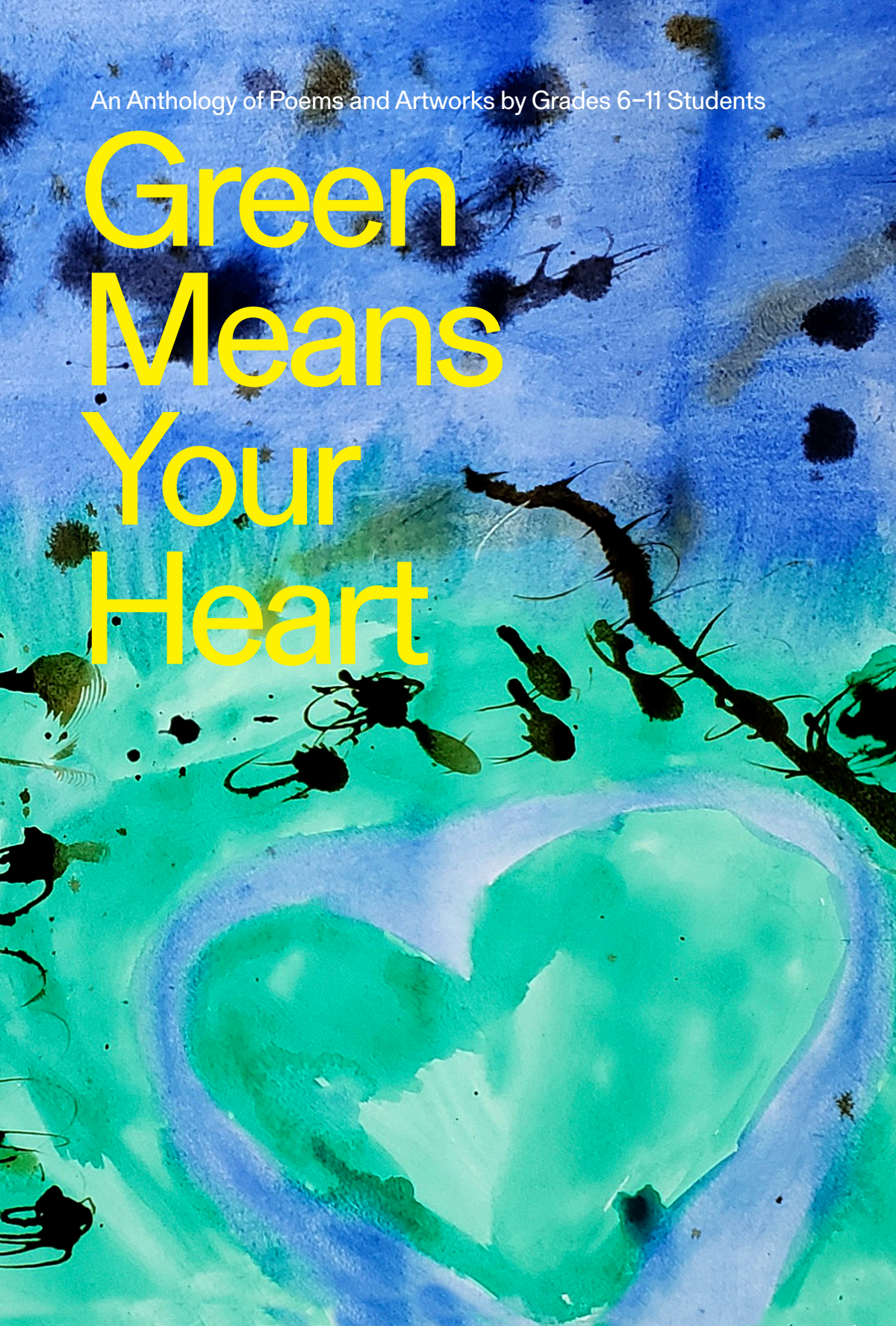


An Anthology of Poems and Artworks by Grades 6–11 Students

# Green Means Your Heart



ARTISTS SPACE

# Expanded Art Ideas

Kate Temple  
Director of Education

Expanded Art Ideas, Artists Space's arts education program, was founded in 2001 with the mission of encouraging mainstream and special education students in New York City's public schools to develop a personal artistic voice and to express their creative capacities with confidence. It does this by providing a variety of innovative skill and inquiry-based programs that support students in realizing and exhibiting their discoveries. Expanded Art Ideas equally expands Artists Space's commitment to working artists by providing the opportunity to work and collaborate with different communities in an educational setting.

*From Here to the Cosmos* is a new mural created by Artists Space Teaching Artist and muralist Stephanie Costello and Grades 5-8 Summer Rising students at P.S. 140 during the summer of 2021. Supported by the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Murals and Pop-up Performance grant enabled schools in New York City to give fresh perspective and new vision for students returning in the fall.

The mural is a celebration of the Lower East Side with its proximity to the Williamsburg Bridge, its tenement-style apartments and close-knit energy, playing with shapes that evoke both books and buildings. The work highlights the role that technology plays in learning— framed against a background of graffiti-like geometry that recalls the artwork of legendary LES artists Rammellzee and Jean-Michel Basquiat. It plays alongside an abstract forest with a plant cell "sun," drawing a bridge between technology and biology.

Through drawing, abstract painting, and conversation, students voiced their concerns about climate change, connectivity, technology, and the relationship of the city to the natural environment. They spoke about the internet's distortion of reality and questioned whether it was connecting them truthfully to others— a theme worked out on the second wall, where computer screens display students' hand drawn patterns, as well as pieces of notebook paper with handwritten words of importance to the students.

They spoke about forest fires, droughts, and access to water and in the end it was water as a resource and as a metaphor for life's pathways that ties all aspects of this mural together.

I chose to write about this piece as a way to welcome and lead you through our year of programming. To create intentions for the future means everything to these young people, and it struck me that the threads of inquiry for the year were already deeply embedded in this wonderful public project.

As you move through this publication, you will find how powerfully resonant these themes have been, and we hope you are as moved as we have been by the inspiring collectivity of these young creative voices.

# Mural Project

Melissa Rodriguez  
Principal

P.S. 140 is so grateful for our 21-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— our new Poet-in-Residence, Dr. Andrew Torres, visual artist Stephanie Costello, and media/sound artist Robert Sember, and visiting environmental artist, Tessa Grundon.

Our year-end exhibition, reception, and Young Artist Perform (YAP) events were conducted live in our auditorium for the first time in two years. It was inspiring to finally see our students once again on the stage and in-person, sharing their poetry with us. 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 this year's return to life.

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!



PS140  
NATHAN STRAUS  
PREP SCHOOL











# Listening to the Lower East Side

### *What is the Sound of Water?*

In spring 2021, we stepped out of our screens into the classroom. Being in-person again was a good time to start something new. "Let's learn about SpongeBob" was the response to my question, "What shall we do now?"

SpongeBob and friends are like us; they are different from each other, they care for each other, they face challenges, and figure out solutions to their problems. Only they do it underwater! They inspired us to explore the shapes, colors, and sounds of wet worlds.

We learned about the real creatures that inspired the SpongeBob characters: crabs, squid, starfish, and plankton. They come in multiple shapes and colors.

Sponges are among the oldest forms of life on earth because they can change. They have adapted to their environments.

Using scissors and paint, we shaped and colored sponge blocks into sea creatures and corals and underwater rocks. The artist, Kate Temple showed us how to wet large sheets of white paper and turn them into ocean worlds using water-soaked sponges and different tones of blue and green paint.

Sponges are great for painting because they can soak up water, and water holds color. But this capacity to absorb water also makes sponges vulnerable. Polluted water will kill a sponge.

The same goes for us. We do not look or feel anything like sponges, but our lungs are very much like sponges, sponges for air. We are different and the same. Our life, like all life, needs a healthy world. This need connects all life.

We declared:

Clean Water is Life. Polluted Water is Death.

Clean Air is Life. Polluted Air is Death.

Clean Earth is Life. Polluted Earth is Death.

The documentary film, *My Octopus Teacher*, really made clear the connection between all lives. In the film, a man swims everyday in the ocean. Slowly, and with great patience and care, he and an octopus interact. This man felt like he and the octopus had become friends.

If we are patient, pay attention, listen, and care about other lives, we will feel this connection.

Tessa Grundon Fievet is an artist who pays attention and cares about the health of our water, earth, and air. She taught us that we will find everything we need to make art if we walk slowly, pay attention, and gather anything and everything: leaves, twigs, bits of plastic.

We used paint that Tessa made by soaking flowers, seeds, leaves, orange peels, and beetroot in hot water. We used dried grass paintbrushes, or splashed the paint onto pieces of scrap paper.

Light is also a paintbrush. Tessa taught us to make cyanotypes by arranging things we found on our walks in the neighborhood onto paper that is sensitive to light. They are like shadow paintings, or echoes of light and echoes of shapes.

Fishing and foraging are similar. You go somewhere and are patient, hoping you might “catch” something. And even if you do not “catch” something, you have had some time to be still and calm. We went fishing for sound in the East River using tiny cameras attached to fishing rods.

Instead of the sounds of SpongeBob and his friends, we heard lots of stillness— except for the sounds of engines. Lots of boats travel the East River. Decades of pollution have also destroyed a lot of life in these waters.

As the water gets cleaner, however, life is returning.

Tessa has a studio on Governors Island, which is home to the Billion Oysters Project. The project is working to bring back the huge oyster banks that used to live in New York Harbor. Oysters filter the dirt out of the water, making it safe for other life.

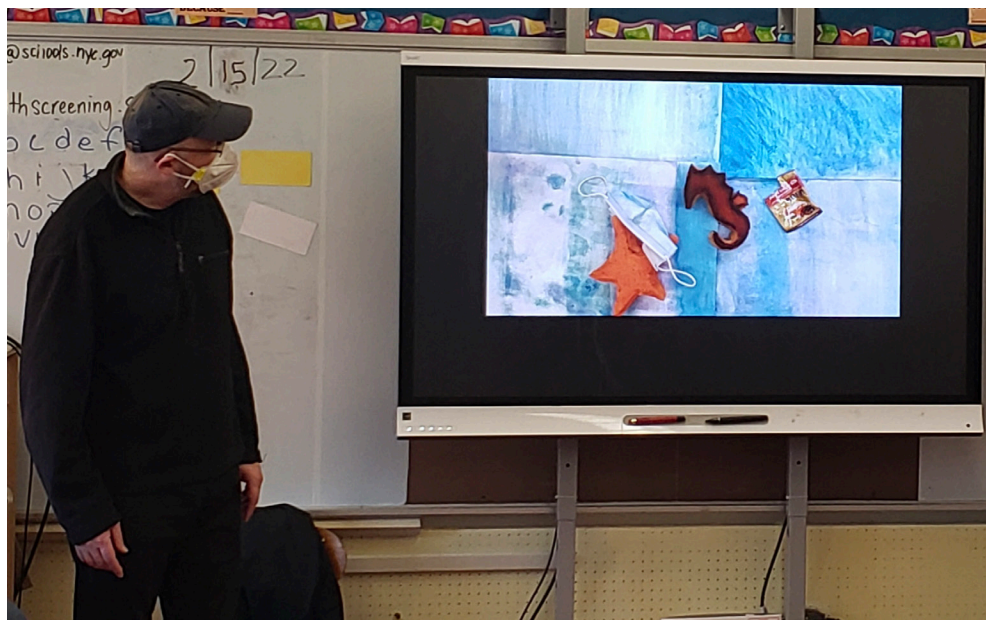
When we visited Governors Island, we saw some of this work of hope.

We listened to the water lapping against the shore. We followed the sound below the surface and the lives of octopi, plankton, sponges, oysters, and millions of other creatures.

Hope comes from patience, paying attention, and caring.

The *What is the Sound of Water* team included our wonderful and wise elders, Ms. Hanoman, Ms. Davis, Ms. Cox, Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Asia, and the talented and courageous students:

|                         |                       |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Participating Students: | Jaydin Hayes          | Jayda Tucker    |
|                         | Ethan Gomez           | Marc Colon      |
|                         | Andrew Mcclaughlin    | Mariah Flagler  |
|                         | Jason Morales         | Bryan Jaquez    |
|                         | David Moran Fernandez | Emanuel Jenkins |
|                         | Arlyn Rodriguez       | Nasal Miles     |
|                         | Anali Sapata          | Damien Ramos    |
|                         | Jose Sterling         | Savannah Roldan |
|                         | Djime Sylla           | Joseph Santana  |
|                         | Savannah Torres       | Joseph Weaver   |



## Water Paintings





Octopus Painting





Foraging





Fishing





Handmade Ink Experiments



# Making Paint



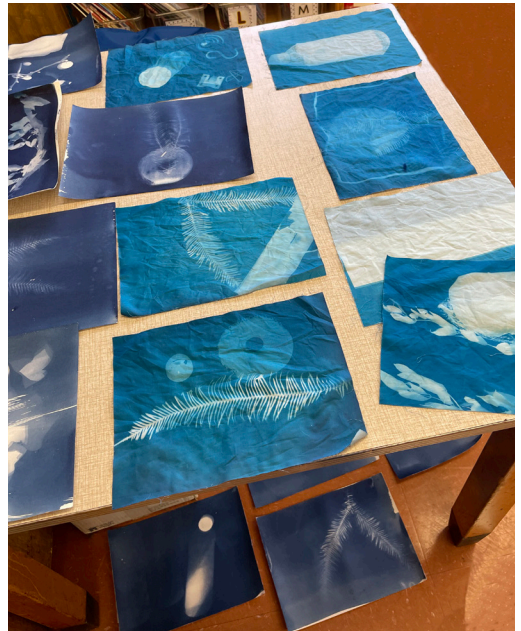
Working with Light





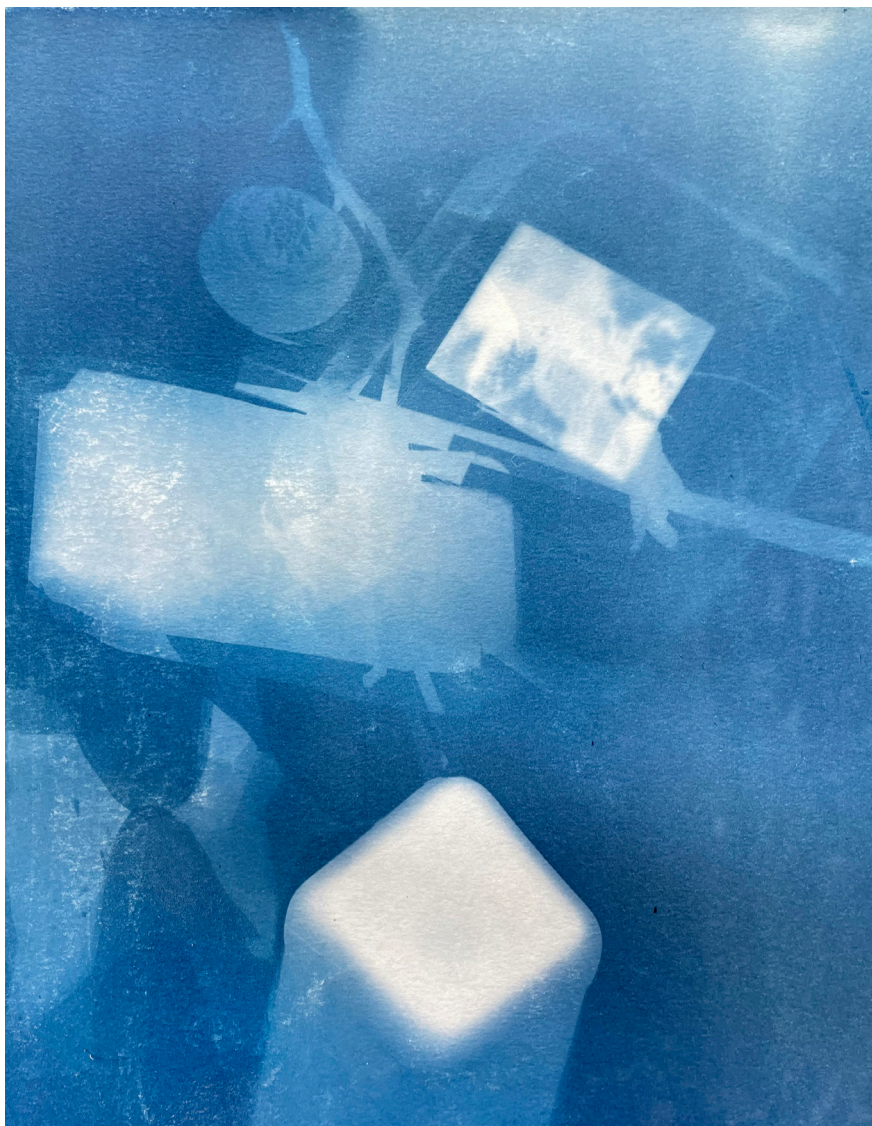
Cyanotypes



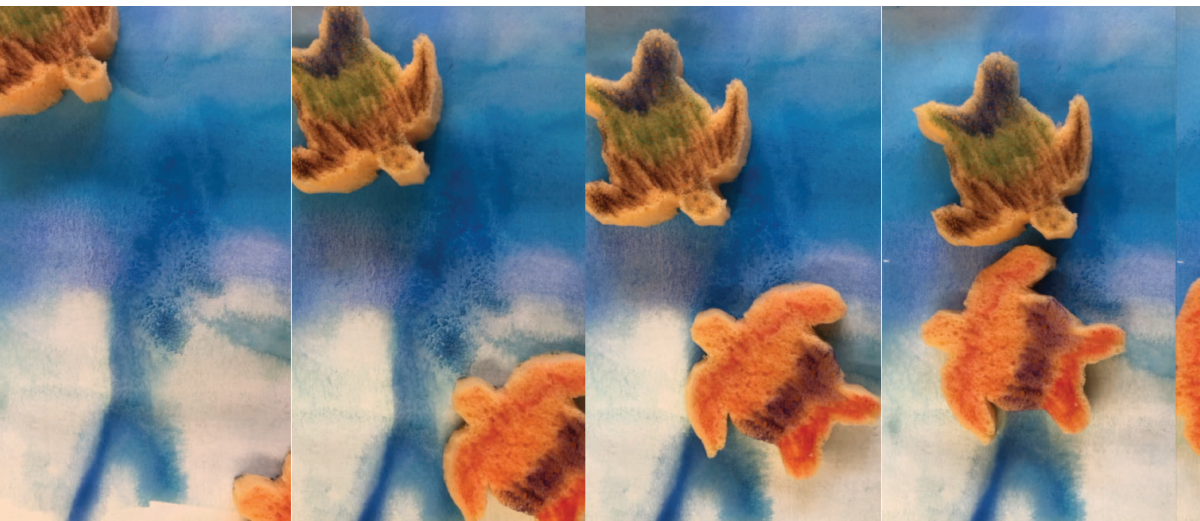


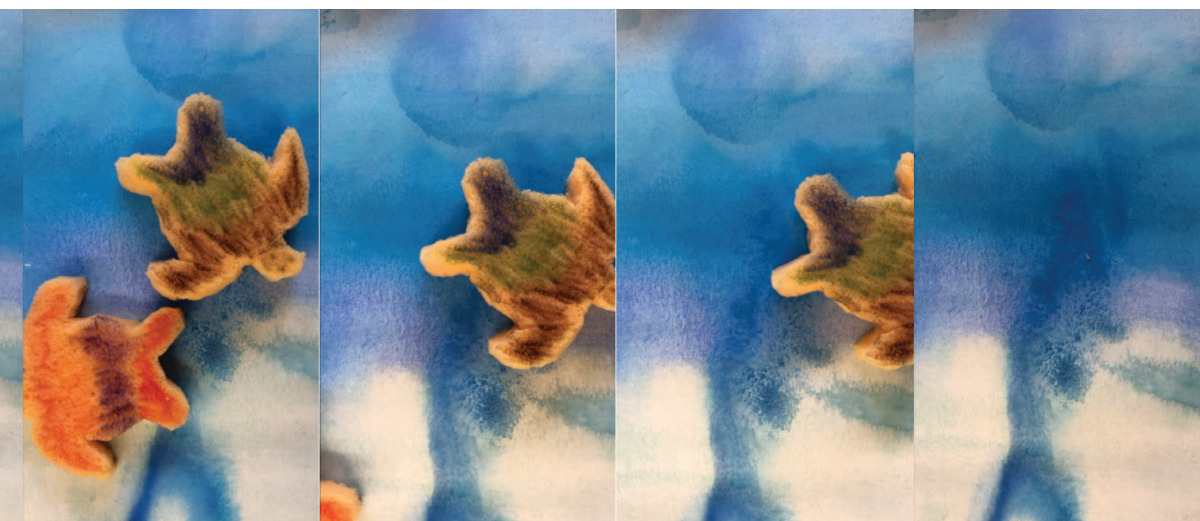
Cyanotypes





Spongimation





Billion Oyster Project

Family

Frien

8)

9)

8)





# Portfolio

Stephanie Costello  
Teaching Artist

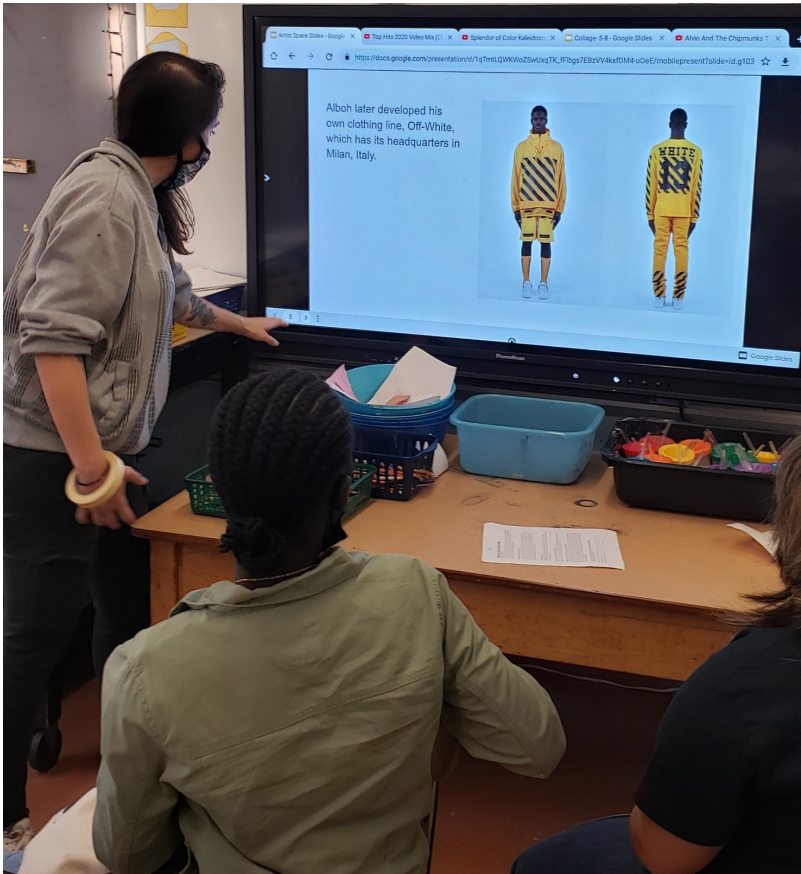
We welcomed back P.S. 140 Portfolio students into the studio after a year of virtual learning. It was a joy to be able to work together in-person again, and do the things we had enjoyed in the past, like our gallery trips on the Lower East Side, and organizing on-site exhibitions in the Blue Sky gallery. We ended our year with a trip to the New Museum to see the groundbreaking exhibition, Faith Ringgold: *American People*.

During the year, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students explored a variety of abstract and representational styles and ways of representing their ideas, while also developing drawing skills and creating artwork for high school auditions. Projects included: practicing the art of still life drawing, drawing outside to create impressions of the Lower East Side, creating abstract painting and collage, and exploring how fashion influences art.

In particular, we explored the art and design of the late fashion designer, Virgil Abloh, and learned about his fierce commitment to creativity and freedom. For example, that one can be an architect or engineer, and also a fashion designer, chef, and DJ. That sentiment, that there is no limit to creativity or the way we work in the world, is one I hope all of our students will continue to carry through their lives.

I encourage all P.S. 140 students to live and create in the most authentic and imaginative ways and I wish our graduating students wonderful success in all of their future endeavors!

# Introducing Students to Virgil Abloh

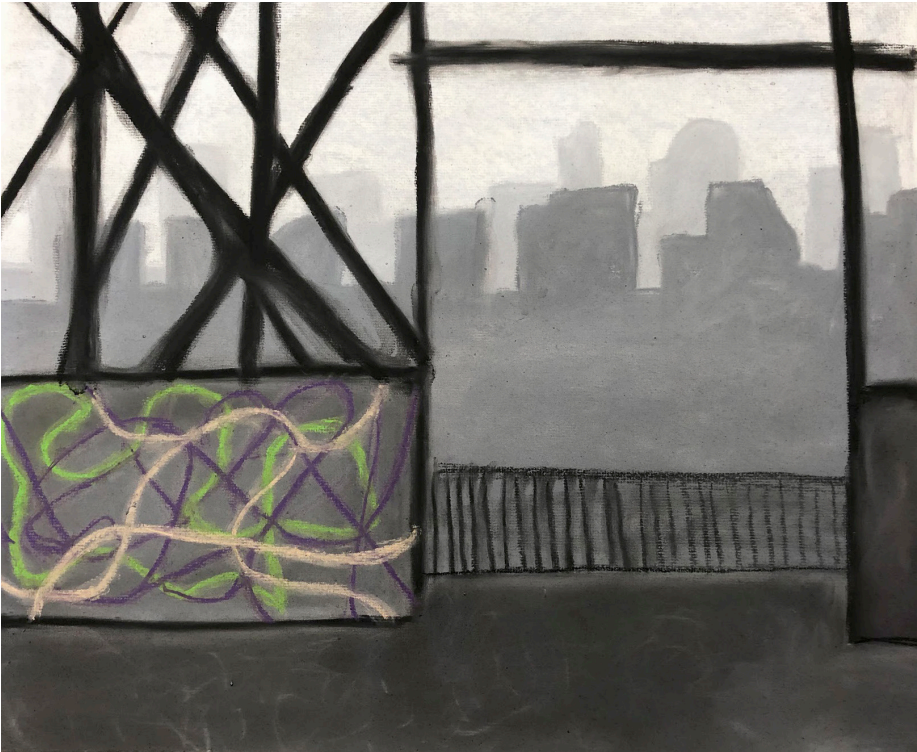


## Virgil Abloh Project In-Progress















Visit to Sleepwalk Parasol Projects on the LES





# Poetry

Dr. Andrew B. Torres  
Teaching Artist

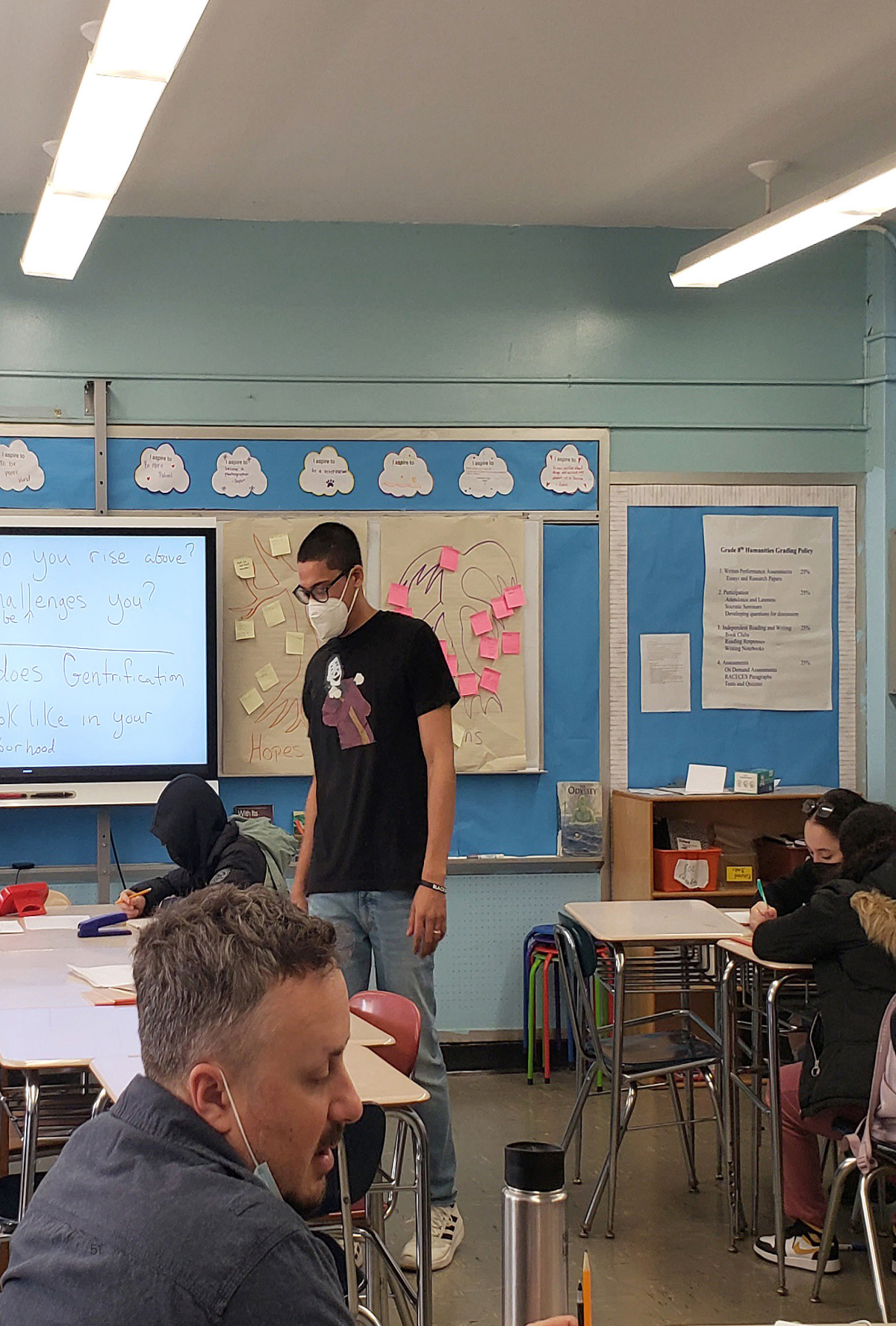
The last ten weeks have been a powerful journey of self-reflection for the youth poets of P.S. 140. This anthology represents a small window into the world of verbal and written art that they constructed during our time together. Thematically, we found ourselves at the intersection of identity, community, and futurity, collectively grappling with various forms of meaning making and knowledge production.

As a collective, we explored gentrification through the work of Roaya Marsh, juxtaposed with *And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou, to simultaneously see the beauty of our community and how to resist its erasure. To study the different forms of rhyme and wordplay, the poets engaged with hip hop education by listening to Big Pun and examining his lyrical delivery. Learning the versatility and power of their language, we listened to the words of Jamila Lyiscott as she expressed the power of knowing three ways to speak English. Shane Koyzcan provided us with an animated poem on bullying so that the youth poets could see that words are not the only way to communicate your imagination. The prolific artwork of Kara Walker showed the youth poets how even the simplest of silhouettes can tell some of the deepest stories, along with the layers of meaning that come with the effective use of imagery.

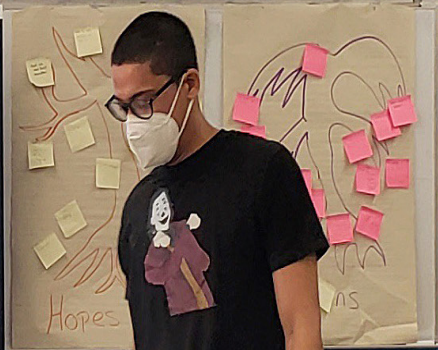
The youth poets of P.S. 140 learned to read and write the word and world, as described by Paulo Freire, when we went outside to see the elements of desirability in their hood. It is with my deepest and sincerest sense of appreciation that I express my gratitude to Mr. Virchillo, Mr. Brearley, and Kate for their support throughout the last ten weeks. To the eighth-grade youth poets of P.S. 140, you are the realest group of creatives for always pushing yourselves to write and giving me the opportunity and privilege of being your Teaching Artist.

Dr. Andrew Torres Poetry Prompts





o you rise above?  
allenges you?  
Does Gentrification  
ok like in your  
erhood



#### Grade 8th Humanities Grading Policy

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Written Performance Assessments<br>Essays and Research Papers  | 25% |
| 2. Participation<br>Attendance and Lateness<br>Socratic Seminars<br>Developing questions for discussion | 25% |
| 3. Independent Reading and Writing<br>Book Clubs<br>Reading Responses<br>Writing Workshops              | 25% |
| 4. Assessments<br>On Demand Assessments<br>RACLES Paragraphs<br>Tests and Quizzes                       | 25% |

You may ask me why don't I show more effort  
or ask why don't you care  
because I lack motivation

You may ask me why I don't finish my homework  
or ask why I don't clean my room  
because I lack motivation

You say "what happened, you used to enjoy everything, you were  
so happy." But it's because people complain and complain  
about it and I just don't feel motivated anymore

Thinking  
about life  
Heating my face  
up with my mask  
Ear plug  
damaged due to  
mask  
Making my  
mask thinner  
Asking for  
another mask  
Skipping class to  
get a mask  
Kicking the ball  
with my mask

The mask can be used to hide yourself.  
Hide your identity with the mask.  
Everyone wondering what you look like.

Making it hard to hear what you say.  
Ask people to "back up" before you get sick.  
Stop yourself from getting sick  
Kill this virus

The infection spread  
Help is needed  
Everyone is sick  
Masks slow the spread down, not stopping it  
At least you're getting protected  
So now it's gone  
Keep the masks on

They help people's true self hide  
From the world  
He hides his true self from everyone  
With his mask  
His mask is to hide

Everyone can be really judgmental  
that's why he hides under his mask  
Mostly his escape from everyone  
judging him.

Anxiety can get really bad when I'm  
With people and don't have my mask.  
So now I never take my mask  
off.

Keeping my mask on is what I  
will always do because I'm not  
myself when it's off.

Working out makes me happy because  
when I get angry I take my anger out on working out  
It may hurt but it's worth it in the end  
True talk  
I want to look good with my shirt off  
I want to because I used to dislike how I looked  
I used to be very chubby, you see  
and one day I decided to better myself  
I started working out every day  
Hell yeah it was torture  
I trained my arms so good to the point where I would  
fall straight to the floor in pain  
It was hard but it was worth it in the end

Some people wear masks  
Some people wear these masks really good  
These people wear these masks so  
tight it starts to break  
Help these people for their sake  
Even if they say they're doing great  
Make their day

A lot of people wear masks  
Sit with them and wait for their dark time to pass  
Kind actions can make someone take  
off their mask.

I rise above all the comments  
I'm too out of standard to live here  
being of Black descent doesn't always mean 'hood'  
Just cause I'm the daughter of a Black man  
doesn't mean 'Brooklyn' or 'the Bronx'  
I rise above the stars  
My home is for no one else but me and my family  
I worked to live in my house  
My mom worked hard to live in her house  
My dad worked hard to live in his house  
Just because I come from Brooklyn  
doesn't mean I will cause harm

The hoodie is a mask used to hide yourself  
Hoodies are my greatest means of survival  
Everyone has a mask.  
Masks are the key to a person's emotions  
A human needs a mask to survive for things  
Such as a job  
Keep living with a mask.

To show other people what they want to see  
Hide an appearance  
Emotions hidden  
My emotions matter to me  
Always, safe  
Survival use  
Kills nobody.

- 1) A move like being pushed away
- 2) To when it ends you remember
- 3) you remember the road shaking under you
- 4) you remember the loud bumps going up and down
- 5) cause all you can see are flying rocks and dust
- 6) from the wheels all around you
- 7) cause when I move I become sadness
- 8) As I try to forget my old friends
- 9) and try to make new ones for the better
- 10) to when you finally reach the end
- 11) of the road so you can fly and shine brighter
- 12) again and again till you don't need to
- 13) shine or fly again to where you realize
- 14) you shouldn't stress about moving
- 15) cause fate awaits
- 16) To when a young kid has to move
- 17) almost every year trying to shine and
- 18) fly so that kid from moving to a
- 19) different school every year in elementary
- 20) and two times in middle school can stop
- 21) shining because there's no place to move
- 22) so no time for fate cause
- 23) the rest is all action

People sometimes think that because  
I'm Spanish that I should know  
How to speak Spanish, but I don't.

People also think that Spanish people are  
always loud; can't lie, they're mostly right  
and wrong because not everyone is like that.

They may also think that Spanish  
people are always short, but they aren't.

One day I hope they see me for  
who I am; I understand Spanish but I  
Can't speak it, I'm loud but not all the  
time, and no, I'm not that short.

Long day every day  
Track up in his face what does he say?  
He says nothing  
He runs  
He walks people make their talk  
But they could never walk his  
walk

My bracelets make me happy  
I got 14 on the right  
And 14 on the left  
They all are different  
And have different chakras  
That means different things about me  
All my bracelets mean different things  
Like the green means your heart  
Violet is your crown  
And indigo means your third eye.  
It's very fun collecting them  
I have all 7 different chakras  
Plus when I go somewhere  
I like to buy one like my Puerto Rican one

On a rainy, cloudy, and gloomy day  
we feel as dead as an unwatered plant.  
We sit inside and watch as the rain falls  
and the leaves flow in the wind.  
Sad and gloomy like the day outside,  
I plug in my headphones and listen.  
Listening as I become happier and feel stronger,  
the things around me feel alive  
and I realize that they always have been alive,  
but just as gloomy as the day.

Why do people judge so quickly  
Mistreat you quickly  
Hate you for the color of your skin  
Can't please anyone  
Living in constant fear  
Scared for your life  
Fighting off so much negativity  
No positivity  
Only hate and misjudging  
Hate all around the world  
Help us with this negativity  
Help with positivity  
Send out the message  
World peace.

You make my heart ache when  
you make my heart break.

Put me in a coffin send me far away  
tell them to send their prayers not  
like I'm leaving anyway.

Don't wanna be cremated don't wanna be  
burned tell all my friends that my  
trust has been earned.

You gotta work hard  
Lift weights every day  
You gotta be smart, pass all your classes  
You gotta grind every day  
All night put up shots  
Don't be shy  
You gotta be dedicated to the game  
To make the hall of fame  
You gotta be smooth  
Killa of the game.

Family is important.

Family is important because of how much they help and support you.

They are always there for you like how your shadow is always with you.

They always help you in times of need like if you needed help with something as simple as homework or learning how to tie your shoes.

Even when you are feeling down about something like if you can't do something they always try to be supportive of you and think of ways to cheer you up.

Family always helps.

Life is too short to wake up in the  
morning with regrets.  
There are people who  
write and forget about  
all the negative things in life.  
It's so hard to choose football  
or basketball, they're both cool.  
Touchdown for a 3 pointer.

Why am I ignored by those around me?  
Am I really so bland and plain?  
My presence is not felt or seen.  
Acknowledgement is very rare for me.  
Woe and why?  
I have photos too, to show.  
I want to show them too, y'know.  
Please just get a clue, cause  
I really am breaking from the inside.  
I'm fine, I'm good, I'm okay.  
I don't speak up to avoid all the hate.  
Notorious or infamous we wanna be known.  
I will do whatever I can to make myself remembered.  
I promise you this  
Your memory of me  
is gonna be the SHIT

Because of your screeches and yells  
Because you're always crowded  
Because of your distinct smell  
The dusty, cool air  
rushes in

But people don't understand  
that you take care of them  
Deal with their problems  
Help the elderly  
Your cold seats comfort  
the passengers

As garbage is being thrown on  
you, you stay running  
Helping the people relax  
Your designs are beautiful  
and helps create a memory  
that lives peacefully in  
our mind.

Part of the reality of life is hardship.  
That is not a negative statement.  
It is simply a statement of fact.  
Every day brings new challenges.  
Living with the expectation that life will be difficult  
makes hard times easier to deal with.  
When a family encounters hard times  
they will need to join together and face the challenge as a team.  
They will need to be sensitive to the needs of individual family members,  
each of whom will face unique difficulties.  
Life is not easy, but having a support system makes life that much  
easier.

They're too fast  
They do grown things  
at a very young age  
Think they're unbeatable  
Think they're untouchable  
Think they're too smart for people  
but they're wrong.  
They need to act their age  
They need to respect  
And they need to do things at  
their age level.  
What I'm trying to say is  
they just need to take it slow  
like I understand they wanna act  
grown but it's a lot.

Comfort on difficult days  
Smiles when sadness intrudes  
Rainbows to follow the clouds  
Laughter to kiss your lips  
Sunsets to warm your heart  
Hugs when spirits sag  
Beauty for your eyes to see  
Friendships to brighten your being  
Faith so that you can believe  
Confidence for when you doubt  
Courage to know yourself  
Patience to accept the truth  
Love to complete your life.

I've had a difficult decision in May  
Because it was hard to say  
Because it was in a way  
That made me lay  
Thinking which one I should take  
The drawing supplies or the clay supplies  
This was to make me shake  
My brain  
In the house away  
From the rain  
I was walking in circles  
And I almost felt like a ball  
About to hit the wall  
Like handball  
Then I thought I could draw more  
Then how will I sculpt clay  
So then again I lay  
And then I said  
Drawing is the one I want this May.

The sun is harsh  
Out in the yard  
A girl approaches me  
With "welcoming" arms  
"I support you!" She claims  
"But don't have a crush on me"  
Jeez they all react the same  
No, I'm not interested  
No, you're not my type  
No, I'm not showing off for anyone  
No, you don't know me  
One day I hope they see  
Just because I'm a lesbian  
Doesn't exactly mean  
I like every single girl I see

Growing up in the hood was crazy like getting shot in the back or stabbed, jumped, robbed, and drug dealing. Also you always had to watch your back because you wouldn't want to get kidnapped, not me though. My mom would always walk me to school and my grandpa would take me home. Another option was also to stay in after school or have my dad get me but I would usually go with my grandpa after school.

New York City is magical like a unicorn  
I love my city  
New York City  
The best city  
I love everything  
About my city  
I love the towns  
I love the food  
I love the sky  
I love the people  
I love how we different from people  
New York City got everything you will love  
It's not like other states  
It's quiet  
It's relaxing  
It's calm  
Most people is kind  
I would want to live nowhere else.

World could become empty  
Crumbled paper flying through the air  
Streets empty  
Not a single soul to be found  
The noises of a silent street  
Dead souls walking down the street  
Abandoned stores  
No one to be found  
Homes abandoned  
Its like if someone bombed this place  
America  
Known for crowded streets  
Not ghost towns  
Empty streets  
Swings screeching in the wind  
No one around  
The smell of things rotting  
Burning fires  
Cars turned over  
Dark streets  
An empty town  
That feels depressing  
Wondering what happened to this town

Since I was 12 years old I lived with a known disease  
that will be with me for the rest of my life  
no cure or anything  
just responsibility  
that day my mom was like a strong lion  
compared to me I was like a weak dog  
but still I wanted to stand tall  
my mom called the ambulance  
all I heard was  
wee woo wee woo  
then bam I'm at the hospital  
then 3 days later I was back to my feet  
feeling as strong as Superman.

THE HIDDEN IDENTITY

HIDING YOUR IDENTITY IS LIKE WEARING A MASK

EVEN WHEN YOU TALK DIFFERENT YOU ARE HIDING YOUR  
IDENTITY

MAYBE WE CHANGE THE WAY WE SPEAK BECAUSE SOME-  
ONE DOESN'T LIKE IT

ABNORMAL IS MAYBE WHAT YOU SEE YOURSELF AS JUST  
BECAUSE YOU DON'T REACH PEOPLE'S STANDARDS,  
FEELING ABNORMAL FEELS LIKE YOU'RE BEING STABBED  
WITH A KNIFE

SELF-CONFIDENCE IS ALL IT TAKES

KEEP BEING YOU!

<3 GRAFFITI <3

Killing buildings

Like pollution kills the air

Not a true form of art

This is why people hate me

But I am amazing

My bright colors smack you in the face

Blue, purple, pink, orange, green

These colors make me up

## Poetry Walk



This activity represented an opportunity to read and write the word and world by taking a walk through the neighborhood while capturing the beauty within it. In these moments we see poetry in motion.

City-As-School

# BRIDGE

This year, students turned their lenses back to the streets of New York and used walking as a form of meditative research to slow down and become aware of their bodies as multi-sensory vehicles for discovering images, stories, and materials. While students sharpened their perceptual and critical observation, they explored historical layers and hidden spaces, and were able to connect cultural geographies of the city with their own subjectivity and memory.

With a focus on how making and viewing photography can help to shape relationships with people and places in our communities, students studied the works of Tyler Mitchell and Dawoud Bey on view in Chelsea galleries, the exhibition *Traveling While Black* at the Schomburg Center in Harlem, a range of visual storytellers shown in public spaces around Brooklyn Bridge Park during *Photoville*, and *Social Muscle Rehab* by Ei Arakawa at Artists Space.

We gathered every Monday at Artists Space to hold class in Ei Arakawa's installation to critique and refine works-in-progress, and produced a slideshow and zine for the culminating event.

The final presentation, *Beneath the Surface*, was celebrated at City-As-School and attended by Artists Space curators, teaching artists and staff, City-As students and staff, and City-As coordinator Emily Oliapuram. At the presentation, these young emerging creatives had an opportunity to discuss their projects with a broader audience, and receive feedback from Artists Space staff.

Emily D. Oliapuram  
Internship Coordinator

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.

Artist Space and City-As collaborated for a fourth year with Teaching Artist Claudia Sohrens in the fall of 2021 in an internship entitled, *Beneath the Surface*. As students reconnected to school in-person after a year and a half 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 utilized the skills they learned to chronicle their identity, mental health, beliefs, families, and daily lives. The result was their stories of struggle, triumph and future hopes. Thank you to Artists Space for providing our students with this powerful learning experience.



I like to take simple straightforward shots, usually creating a natural border of some sort. I tend to shoot for colors that pop. Whether it is a yellow bag or contrasting the sky with buildings, I try to utilize one or more elements of photography while shooting. For most of these images I tended to avoid people.

I can't really relate to people through photography or just in general. Each photo represents a part of NYC for me, from the warm vibrant morning to the cool calm evenings. The peace and harmony they bring to me is pure joy.

All my photos stand out because they're me just trying to be me.

There are parts of New York City that look better in the morning than they do at night. You don't get the full effect of NYC unless you see it in the morning and the Manhattan skyline looks amazing half-awake. If you are worried about safety when walking around the city at night, you really don't have to be; there are thousands of people walking around on every road – it is the city that never sleeps.

For my photos in Queens, I spent more time out in the morning than I have before and was able to find things to do in New York that really shouldn't be missed. The mornings are so peaceful it seems like time itself halts and everything seems clear cut like it's a different world.

Going into stores while no one was there was a trip. It seemed so weird, like I shouldn't be in there. The sidewalks seemed unnaturally calm, like a plague just happened—which there was—as these were taken in the middle of Covid.



This is a story about how I get to school and the stops I get on and off at to get there.

I buy my breakfast every morning from a mini food truck. He makes sandwiches and bagels. He also sells donuts, hot chocolate, and coffee.

In my pictures, you can see that there are many restaurants that have outdoor dining, because of Covid and all the city's restrictions. You can see people eating outside and having a good time, and you see food from different places, and a mixture of different cultures and traditions through food.





These pictures I've taken could mean a lot to other people, because I see what others don't pay attention to, or can't focus on. I believe I have a gift. Life, in any form, is beautiful, even the ugliest thing you think is ugly, it's a form of art that nobody believes is beautiful.

For example, some pictures may look cool, fancy, or even historical, but because the pictures have feelings, they can be watched or read over and over, like a book that can be looked at in different positions and still have a different story or meaning.

The very first picture that I took of a random person, I felt confident but a little anxious. I kept thinking that this is not perfect or that it can't be good for a picture, but this didn't stop me from doing something that I love — which is making something out of nothing.

If I saw an opportunity to take a picture of a random human being, I took it and was very careful with it like a feather or a leaf. I would say it was delicate asking because you don't know if someone is having a bad day, so being careful was the best option. I would also tell myself to take chances in public so nothing could go terribly wrong even though the picture is at stake.













These are images that perfectly describe me as a person.

I feel as if I'm really such an open, yet closed book. My life is full of ups and downs and I manage to pick myself up every single time.

I took most of these pictures while going through some issues in my personal life, but I feel that taking pictures of things you see really does release stress in a way.

I love taking pictures of my outfits or part of them. One picture I took is a LGBTQ sign, and I feel like as a member of the LGBTQ community it's beautiful seeing how much support we get.

I also wanted to represent how much being with your friends really brings you to be a better person. I feel like we all lose ourselves at one point and assume that we're supposed to be going through it alone, but that's where people, and even I, get it wrong. With my pictures, I'm trying to show that it is okay to ask for help or have company.

People who genuinely care for you WILL be there for you. You are allowed to feel. We are all human and we deserve to live life to the fullest!



When it comes down to who I am, I protect my heart and true feelings as much as I possibly can.

There's so much more meaning behind everything you see. The way I am to you is the way I want YOU to see me. Every picture has a story behind it, like what was going on beforehand, and/or what was happening while the picture was being taken, and what was going through my head.

A lot of people tend to say that the way to someone's heart is through their mouth. The way that cooking makes me feel is astonishing, not only because I have a space where I can input my creativity, but because I get to make someone go through so many different emotions just from one bite of the food I cook.

Pictures in water-filled bathtubs always have a deeper meaning. Since I naturally have a non-sad face I wasn't able to deliver this message. Originally, my goal was to say how I'm drowning in a pool of my own emotions. I just always wanna take care of myself,

I WILL ALWAYS COME FIRST.



Visit to Dawoud Bey Installation in Chelsea



# Presentation at Artists Space





# Threads of History

Lucienne Morel  
Assistant Principal

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 twelve 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, 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, meeting in-person for the first time in two years. The works they created using collage and recycled materials to speak about nature and their relationships to food and its origins. 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 2023!

We choose to work with recycled materials that are easily found at home, magazine paper and paper, adding sequins and ribbons for color and accent. We studied the work of artists who work with found materials and collage, such as Juan Carlos Pinto, Willie Cole, and Sanford Biggers.

Since the students were studying nature and food sources in their science class, we began discussing how culture and traditions of food affect our sense of identity and nationality. We played a guessing game with many of the students' familiar foods from the Caribbean and Central America. Many of the origins of the foods were either Indigenous or African. This was a great surprise for the students to see Indigenous culture in a positive light due to the colonial viewpoints which still dominate Caribbean and Latin America.

Some of the students worked directly with cut up and collaged images of nature, thinking about where the foods that they love originate from. Others were inspired by the colors of nature and created patterned works. At the center of each artwork was their self-portrait.

This was our first Artists Space residency on-site at M.S. 324 since the pandemic closures. The student energy was high, and we were very happy to be back in communion with one another. We concluded with an exhibition and individual student presentations to staff and visiting classmates.

## La Cultura de la Comida

Escogimos trabajar con materiales reciclados que encontramos en casa, papel y papel de revistas, al cual añadimos lentejuela y listones como acentos coloridos. Estudiamos el trabajo de artistas interesados en materiales 'encontrados' y ensamblados con técnica collage, como Juan Carlos Pinto, Willie Cole y Sanford Biggers.

Los estudiantes exploraron a la naturaleza y fuentes de alimento como temas en su clase de ciencia, por ende investigamos cómo la cultura y tradiciones alimentarias influyen en nuestra nacionalidad e identidad.

Usamos un juego de adivinanzas centrado en comida tradicional de Centro América y el Caribe. Los orígenes de estos alimentos son fundamentalmente indígena o Africano, lo cual fue una gran sorpresa para muchos, y difícil para algunos. El poder ver civilizaciones indígenas en forma positiva y favorable es poco usual, ya que las culturas colonialistas dominantes en Latinoamérica y el Caribe, aún les atribuyen un rango cultural inferior.

Algunos estudiantes trabajaron en collage usando recortes de fotografías de naturaleza, estableciendo una conexión entre los alimentos que tanto les gustan y su fuente de origen. Otros se inspiraron en los colores que la naturaleza ofrece creando patrones basados en ellos. Cada artista ha puesto su autorretrato al centro de su pieza.

Esta residencia de Artists Space ha sido la primera llevada a cabo en MS 324 desde que las medidas restrictivas de la pandemia fueron impuestas. Este ha sido un grupo entusiasta y lleno de energía, todos hemos disfrutado mucho el regreso a la convivencia en persona. Concluimos el curso con una exhibición y con presentaciones individuales de los estudiantes al staff y compañeros que nos visitaron durante el evento.

Participating Students:

Bryana Adames  
Lismmery Almonte  
Randi Balbi  
Ana Batista  
Charlene Bautista  
Crismerlyn Castillo  
Fredeline Cruz  
Cristian Estevez  
Jesus Garcia  
Jhasu Naula  
Diana Pena  
Taisha Reinoso  
Raisa Reyes  
Karla Rodriguez  
Dayliani Tavaréz  
Dustin Then











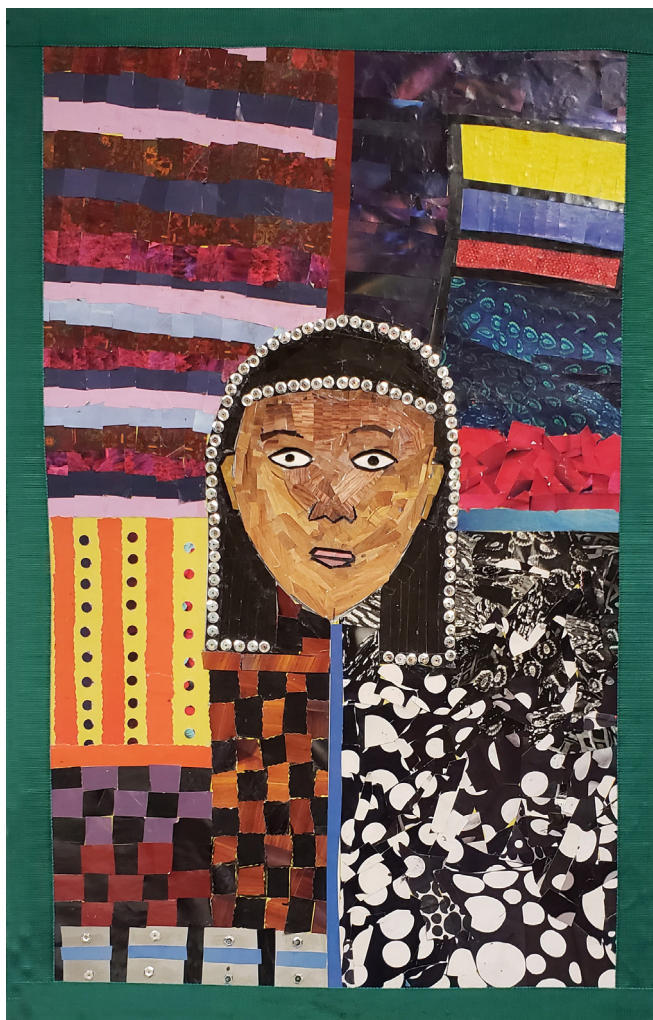














P.S. 140 Nathan Straus  
Lower East Side, New York

City-As-School  
Greenwich Village, New York

M.S. 324 Patria Mirabel  
Washington Heights, 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 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; and The New York City Department of Education.

With special thanks to all the students, teachers, and school administrators for their ongoing dedication. Special thanks to German Herrera for Spanish text translation. Thank you to our special friends and supporters of the Artists Space Expanded Art Ideas program.

©2022

Managing Editors  
Kate Temple  
Rezarta Seferi



ARTISTS SPACE