For Those Of Us Who Speak

An Anthology of Poems and Artworks by Grades 6–11 students
Founded in 1972, Artists Space heralded changes in the institutional and economic landscape of contemporary art in New York City by lending support to emerging ideas and emerging artists alike. Today, Artists Space remains a vital place for discussion and critical examination—ultimately, a center for new ideas in a radically changing world.

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 skill and inquiry-based programs that support students in realizing and exhibiting their innovations and talents. 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.

Our new Poet-in-Residence, Rebecca Teich, worked with 8th grade English classes to reflect on current events through the writings of Edwin Torres, Mina Loy, Niina Pollari, and others. Rebecca encouraged students to explore experimental writing techniques by collaging, redacting, and re-assembling new meanings from controversial documents such as immigration forms, political speeches, and newspaper headlines. During our Young Artist Perform (YAP) event, held in April at P.S. 140, more than 50 young poets read their works from Rebecca’s class to an enthusiastic audience of middle school students, teaching staff, and Artists Space staff. This is always a highlight in my year and once again I was awed by the powerful and moving works made by these talented young artists.

Now in his third year in residence, the sound-artist Robert Sember used musical traditions of the Lower East Side to survey a selection of the area’s pre-colonial and immigrant histories. Inviting the class to work with concepts such as abstraction and sonic environments native to the neighborhood, the students explored ways to restore and revitalize subtle and often intangible memories. Also reflecting on the particular surroundings of the school, the artist Claudia Sohrens worked with students to explore photojournalistic and experimental techniques to document the oftentimes disorienting changes on the Lower East Side.

Stephanie Costello, another of our teaching artists, guided explorations of the cultural sites and signs local to the area, a project that encouraged students to hone their artistic skills to prepare portfolios for applications to specialized art high schools. The class narrative mural, called The City That Never Sleeps, was then featured in the Blue Sky Gallery in P.S. 140.

M.S. 324 students collaborated with the artist Esperanza Cortes to create sculptures from sustainable recyclable sources, transforming them into...
poetic statements about imagination and excess. Another teaching artist, Sonya Derman, began work with new Portfolio students at M.S. 324. Both groups are featured in Reinventado, an exhibition at the bilingual bookstore, Word-Up Librería Comunitaria, during the 17th Annual Northern Manhattan Art Stroll in June.

Three of our students received Scholastic Art Awards for painting and photography, three students will continue on to LaGuardia High School, two students will enroll in the High School of Art and Design, and one will attend the High School of Fashion Industries.

Our intention is to bring contemporary artists and innovative art programs to middle and high school students, and we are so pleased that the program continues to find new audiences and participants—thanks to our teaching artists and our partners at P.S. 140, Nathan Straus, M.S. 324, Patria Mirabal, and our new partner, City-As-School.

It has been an honor to work with everyone involved. Enjoy the book!
This small group of talented students was extremely engaged in the process of photography and the production of short narratives about the Lower East Side.

I was thrilled by the photographic outcomes of our field trips and the intense conversations they sparked about family histories, traditions, and their ties to the neighborhood. Among our discoveries was a luxurious speakeasy hidden behind a wall of second-hand guitars and cases of antique jewelry in a pawn shop on Essex. We photographed markets in Chinatown and gained behind-the-scenes access to Essex Market while maintaining lively dialogue to unravel assumptions about ethnicities and culture.

"Wabi-Sabi," an abstract/poetic approach to photography, inspired our narratives and photo essay for the year’s photo wall. We are very proud of all the photo students and congratulate Eniya Alonzia and Asia Negron on their Scholastic Art Awards!
The graduating students from the 2019 Portfolio Development are two of the most outstanding young artists I have ever worked with. Cobus Jagdeo and Nayiel Walker have been part of the Artists Space program since 6th grade. Over the last three years, they have been committed to developing their drawing skills and exploring new ways of creating artwork, and have consistently pushed themselves to be better artists. It was a privilege to guide them through this process and watch them realize their unique visions. Cobus often spent months working on a single artwork, developing highly detailed drawings that explore social conflict. Nayiel dedicated herself to portrait drawings and created powerful narrative paintings that earned her a Scholastic Art award two years in a row.

Together with our group of 6th and 7th grade students, we have shared many memories, including visits to art galleries on the Lower East Side, traveling to Open House events at NYC art high schools, and collaborating on a large narrative painting, The City That Never Sleeps, now installed in the P.S. 140 Blue Sky Gallery. I will miss having them in class, where they shared their humor, thoughtfulness, and sensitivity. We wish them great success in sharing their extraordinary talent and vision with the rest of the world, and look forward to having them visit our class next year!
Lizbeth Victoriano  Williamsburg Bridge

Nayiel Walker  Don’t Let the Sun Go Down on Me (for Puerto Rico)
Visit to Marsden Hartley Exhibition at Sperone Westwater
In works invigorating and daring, the 8th grade poets of P.S. 140 take us on a journey through language. The students delve into the world and the words that surround them, exploring language as a readymade in which their voices have a stake—a chance to cross out, cut up, rearrange, and write anew. Their work often culls language from the world around them, such as cut-up headlines, redactions, and rearrangements from texts ranging from political speeches to weather reports, translations of visual imagery, and collectively generated word banks. From this process, we glimpse incisive visions of the world refracted through their lens, their lived experiences, their perspectives.

These poets reckon with the tension between moments of joy, beauty, and comfort and moments of experiencing a deeply troubled world. We see their expressions of pain, exhaustion, and grief while advocating love and affection for others and for themselves. We bear witness to a shared language that shows each young poet’s individual imprint in poems detailing complex feelings, social and political frustrations, personal mappings of public and private spaces, and humorous reckonings with popular culture.

Seriousness and playfulness swirl together as these poets’ voices diligently remind us of our commitments to ourselves, to each other, and to our shared world: “words / are crying to be heard, we must each of us / Recognize our responsibility to seek those words out“.
A Tale of
Love and hate in the time of Fire and Fury
A Photograph, Moderates a human's Tone for Justice
A lamp in the dreary little room
A cigarette
His cigarette
The love you worry about,
I black out
I remove the dark
I save the light
I was confident he’d leave the light
The gunshot
The Silence
I split the night
And out I went
Into the darkness I call light

The valley where children sing a
Symphony together the dream
Beautiful mountain together the
Brotherhood will struggle the
Children despair the father
Died the children
Revealed that together the
Children walk up the mountainside
And sing together for faith
No one deserves to discriminate who are New Yorkers. No cities are taking away right with their Gender. Proudly standing non-conforming New Yorkers. New Yorker use matches, they feel comfortable and safe. No one worry, take care need based on Gender or identity. Features New Yorkers look past who you are. New Yorkers campaign access rights non-conforming New Yorkers.

I’m happy I’m with my cousins sweet home, I haven’t been there in a while. We have fun, then next day school but I just don’t feel happy sometimes, but not all the times only when think of my Mexico I close my eyes and think of the mountains that I climb I think of the heat-ness. I think of the rivers, my family then I see my friends and laugh. These memories make me happy and think there is another sweet home too that makes me happy to think about and want to visit.
A year of advantage, attitude, pressure
Money and more
Successful relationship by public who
Threatens boys and girls

How to survive
Smile?
You
Die

With every death I'm feeling like I could cry.
I see you flew up to the sky
I could feel it inside
This the ending now I'm feeling some pride
First place: My favorite state of mind, a place with only peace, a place without time, a place where I create, a place where I’m divine, this is my favorite place a place I call my mind

Second place: the place where I can roam, it’s fun sometimes when I’m all alone, I can’t do whatever I want and when I speak you hear watch your tone, this is an OK place, a place I call my home

Third place: I come and go so fast, it’s peaceful when I’m here except when I hear the water crash, when I go here, I go to sleep last, this is a cool place, a place I call the bath.

Fourth place: A place with so much rules, a place where I get pushed around but I have to keep my cool, I use my intelligence here the place I call my school

Fifth place: It’s kinda like a zoo, it changes really fast like a car that goes zoom, it can be calm and peaceful here when the car passes through here, this is a nice place, a place where I’m with you

Sixth Place: Sometimes you can hear a dog bark with a plethora of trees that let me play at night it’s nice, but the havoc leaves its mark, this is a cool place, a place I call the park.

Seventh place: It can cause a haze, it’s really confusing and can take days, the way out will make you want to raise, this is a weird place, a place that is a maze.

Eighth place: Where all seems greater, with line and circles that can be removed by an eraser, it can be destroyed easily by people I call raiders this is a great place that call a piece of paper

Ninth place: Nothing seems fair, there’s always people watching you and you may become scared. Everyone fights and gets thrown in a room with no cares. This is a place called Bellevue. I never want to go back there.
No Way
Out from
The ghost
Of
Darkness

My feelings is like a roller coaster
I’m sad
I’m happy
I’m nervous
Which one should I be
There’s drama in my life
That makes it worse
Imma just let the haters be
There are people that like to talk about me
Am I that famous
What’s the reason for you to say things about me

When I say things back you tell the teacher
You act all innocent
But you couldn’t fool me

I’m someone
I’m someone who is

Scared of what people think
Someone who is always nervous to talk
Someone who likes to dance but horrible at singing
I always laugh and smile when I want to
I’m someone who plays basketball but scared to join the team
I’m scared to play in the game
Everyone watching i just freeze
You always have to be scared in life
Just to become the person you want
To be
I’m always scared
I’m always nervous
I’m always happy

But that’s what makes me.......me
Derived from Violent Behavior
Deeply rigid norms created
Are evil
What might be TOXIC
Brand
Now I see all the Participants

My life is a Beautiful thing that I love with my soul
And it is only a gift To a single person
And that person is My mother that is What I love the Person that
Brought me to the World, that’s why I Love my life
Everyday it water day,
ticking with the final countdown
on the clock
ready for school
with only coins in
pockets,
remind me funny bunny
my happiness life is getting
struck by lightning calling
it depression
it’s crazy and Breaking of
life forms
But shooting dart at people
is a piece of cake
aaaah!! I see fire
lighting up of war like it was
a dream.
The world’s Deadliest Creature Of all time

4-year-olds Be beauty queens beats the occasional Bloodthirsty Monster RUN AND Save your life This is A shot Worth Taking

1.
The world has changed Society is broken It’s like the beast in everyone has awoken People being killed People being pushed away Homeless with no place to stay People dying today People getting killed in every way Because there’s no change Society doesn’t change cuz they think it’s strange People are suicidal because they’re not getting what’s vital Which is love and affection, but they got none And now have depression

2.
Erase me from the present Erase me from the past I don’t control my future I’ll grow up with no cash I’m a slave to people born richer than me That’s why I will work To support my friends and family
Almost everybody loves it
Some people don’t have access to it
You will die without it

Above all freedom so full birth brought
War on our nation
The battlefield living long on the
hallow ground dedicated men honored
under finished years.
Seasoned to perfection
Tossed in that great
White flour
Oil on the pan
Pop
Pop
Popping
And when it comes out
It’s crispy golden brown
You can still taste the seasoning
While you eat the chicken
You can hear the crumbs crunching
In your mouth
Use to be cool that’s pretty cruel

got my self into trouble yea I know
that ain’t cool!

Use to think the world is only about me
that is really uncool I know I’ve been through
some cruel yea but in my new school I’m uncool

For those of us who it is necessary to not speak
For others, it is primarily necessary speaking which we believe

Fear of the harsh judgment
I have been mute; maintained silence my whole life

Words are crying to be heard, we
Recognize that we hide

I have no way to break silence.
So many feelings
I can’t deny
I see him
My heart pump, cheeks are red
His goofy smile, I feel safe
So funny, I never thought I would
Feel for someone like him
Crazy and cute
A great combination
His smile out of this world
His eyes sparkle in the sun
Makes me feel so happy
My feelings are strong for him
And only him

Natural women features 100 fashion credits
Advertising for collection
Loving your texture is important
Growing up taking it for granted
Before promotion and after
There was never a
Manifest destiny
It was always
A
Morality and value of expansion
Including freedom
America's potential Would not be
The only

Happy and energetic
Feeling this song is crazy
Laying down I feel calm in many ways
I think of all the
Bad and good times
With my mom, dad, sister, and brother
Very dark very depressed
Being very alone
Walking alone sometimes
Cry
I look up high and
See that I don't
Deserve to die
deep in my
the only place to find
time all I need is a dime
In my mind I feel fine
all I can say is that it’s
my time to shine
derived man
wrong gender
feeling female
dangerous shooting
more evil
men and boys
are failing being men.

I like when you call but you never do
I never seen you before but it’s good to know I’m loved by someone
A tan is something you get when you hot so I guess you’re hot now
Instead of staying you run away why can’t you stay
You’re at the airport about to fly away like a little bird
I’m through with being fancy I’m not that type of person you made me this way
And also comfort is something I had with you
Money is something I can’t save
A couch is something I sit on when I’m down
My favorite color is red that’s what I see when I’m mad
I wonder how my life would change
I don’t have time to think about to rewinding
I love being in middle my hands are full
I am a commander
And like my catch phrase I love you too
Turn to page 121 if you hate me
Heartbroken and all looked
Through my phone, I was too crazy
To love, I'm honestly done my
Life is so messy I'm coming
Apart I also think at night
Perfume just to let him recognize
Me ugh I honestly want to
Explode and the thought of
That is scary
Dear Stan Lee,

Thank you for making wonderful ideas and comic books/graphic novels. You are such a role model for me. Every day I try to draw with your style and technique. In peace Mr. Lee

Always a fan,
Chaz Lee

P.S. You see we have the same last name right?

yeah every day counts
clearly black clover
switch depressed mac and
cheese fun death so
He can take his
peas in sleeves with
Deez. Fun all day
But not today sad to
much but not as to
such. Everyday counts
make it fair but
today don’t dare

I don’t like things
I hear rings
I like sounds and skies
I like the flavors and want to die
There never was morality.

Freedom, not destiny.

Outlining across the Pacific without interpretation.

Conflict never resolved.
  *The virtue.
  *The mission.

Redeeming the world
  *The destiny

  God the world in Pain.

Hair, all I see is hair
Hair is going up, down, left, right
It’s moving freely in any way it likes
There is no where hair cannot move
You can use it as a mask, a mustache
Also even in different styles

***

Danger there’s glass
Danger there’s rats
Danger and caution
Danger is scared
Danger makes you be careful
Danger makes you slow
Danger could hurt
You can learn from danger

***

Winter fire
The cold art, the hot
The warm and the cool
they’re both good and bad
To acknowledge people
thousands of years before the
honored
protected
their new chapter in the
establishment
of
conflict,
the move away from their
traditional
Homelands.

To my home:

I love to sleep there
Without a care
Giving flies a stare
Open the window
Breathe fresh air
A boy
Breathtaking smile
The strong glancing moments
He is not perfect
We all have mistakes
His presence keeps me warm,
His love,
Sweet and tender hair
Feelings, so many feelings
His feelings aren’t as strong as mine
His feelings were lost
Gone.
He don’t care for my feelings
But I
Still and will always love and care
For a fictional character.
With every inch of my life
My love for you is really right
And everything around me I just see it
Like it's something nice. Don't respond
And maybe you won't have to fuss or fight.
Listen I wish I could take your pain
And I be feelin so ashamed because you
Cherish every breathe and I use my breath
To complain.
And if loving you is wrong then I don't
Wanna be right
You had some darkness in you so I had
To bring on the light
You turned your back on me, and now
It's cutting me like a knife
Lemon-time life is fine. You see me sipping
The sprite,
All this drama it's not working
See me dripping in birkin
I'm sitting and learning
My view getting blurry
I'm new to the worries

TIME
Looks different materials can change our lives
To be furious
To stay furious

We're
Running
Out of time
After almost three years of listening and recording Lower East Side neighborhoods, we have learned something about the presence of history in our world today. This year, we are listening to the deep history of the Lower East Side—sounds that no longer exist, sounds that are buried under the noise, bustle, and ambition of the present time. We call this project A Map of Echoes because echoes, like memories, come back and last beyond the events that cause them.

We are learning new ways of listening so that we can hear the "echoes of history." This involves doing research, looking at historic photographs, and listening to old recordings and different kinds of music. Kate taught us that painting can be way to listen. She showed us how color moves across damp paper. The color fades, like an echo. Painting, like listening, helps us slow down, be still and quiet, and pay attention.

To make this Map of Echoes, we want to hear the lives of people who no longer live here and the histories of communities that call the Lower East Side home today. We begin with members of the Lenape Nation, the first people to call this place home. We celebrate the enslaved and freed Africans who built community in the face of incredible odds. We are also learning about the histories of Jewish, Irish, Puerto Rican, and Dominican immigrants. Many of these communities face uncertain futures as gentrification changes the neighborhoods.

We are visiting places of historical importance to each community to "return" or honor their presence with music by their descendants. We make recordings of this music played back into these places so that we hear the sounds of the past mixing with the sounds of the present. In the process, we are thinking about the echoes of our now on the Lower East Side.

After almost three years of asking: “What is the sound of the Lower East Side?” we have learned that we can never finish answering the question. Sound, like time, is part of the unending stream of life. The story of the Lower East Side is one of change, and what we hear also changes. We just need to keep on listening.
Hare Krishna Tree Listening Session
Painting Sound
City-As-School is an internship-based public high school serving students from all five boroughs of NYC by offering diverse learning experiences across the city. Many students come to City-As at risk of dropping out, and are looking for creative opportunities to re-engage in their education and in the society around them.

Artists Space partnered with City-As-School in the fall of 2018 to launch a photography workshop for incoming students, bridging their journeys from traditional school structures to experiential learning out in the field. With veteran Teaching Artist Claudia Sohrens, students walked the streets of New York to document their thoughts and ideas through a 35mm camera. They developed photography skills while discussing each other’s work, observations on street life, and social justice issues. At the end of the workshop, the students presented their work in an exhibit called Light and Shadow.

For many of our students, the workshop was an introduction to analog photography, and the skills learned will undoubtedly carry over into other experiences in life and learning. We are grateful and fortunate for our dynamic partnership with Artists Space and look forward to the next collaboration.

Our first collaboration with City-As-School in the fall of 2018 provided space for students to dedicate time and focus to photography. The “learn-by-doing” approach and critical conversations about the medium helped students to envision individual photography projects. While experimenting with artistic expression, they discovered individual strengths and found answers to new questions.

It was exciting to witness how much the students enjoyed going on excursions to explore other neighborhoods, and how they worked together in teams to face the technical challenges of learning analog photography. Field trips to different neighborhoods (Lower East Side, Chinatown, Harlem, Chelsea, DUMBO) also included visits to a range of photography exhibitions that added vibrancy and meaning to the students’ work. I must offer special mention to Amelia Cleary, Internship Coordinator of City-As-School, for her effort and energy.

What a great experience!

Amelia Cleary
Internship Coordinator

Claudia Sohrens
Teaching Artist
Light and Shadow Photography Workshop Participants:

Dylan Cadavid  
Gabriela Madera  
Henry Hubert  
Daisy Paulino  
Tasha Martinez  
Carlington “Roy” Laing  
Rose Rodriguez  
Jorge Salado  
Myesha Berrios  
Damon Elwood  
Kate Jimenez  
Roberto Rivera
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 ten 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.

Most recently, Threads of History students worked with Teaching Artist, Esperanza Cortes, and science teacher, Mary Guerrero, to create large sculptures using recycled materials and to reflect on questions of environmental sustainability and access, emphasizing the role of the imagination to transform everyday materials. This work and the work of our newly initiated Portfolio Development program with Teaching Artist Sonya Derman will be featured in a community exhibition at the Word-Up Community Bookstore from May 21-June 11, 2019.

We are also thrilled to have our students and families participate in the 17th Annual Northern Manhattan Uptown Arts Stroll, a month-long event in June.

We are extremely grateful to have this long-standing partnership with Artists Space’s Director of Education, Kate Temple, and artist educators, Esperanza Cortes and Sonya Derman. They are enthusiastic collaborators in providing our students with enriching cultural experiences.

We look forward to many more years of collaboration for the benefit of future artists!
Reinventado: Re-use and Sustainability

Ms. Guerrero’s 7th grade science students and I learned about recycling, sustainability, and environmental responsibility. Students’ imaginations were sparked by looking at the work of artists who used reclaimed materials—Willie Cole, Pepón Osorio, and Leo Sewell.

Our goal was to create a language-enriched environment taught primarily in Spanish with English translations. Students from the Caribbean, Central America, and South America explored the principles of design and developed related vocabulary in both languages. The students worked in groups to engage in computer research, drawings, and conversation. The collaborative nature of our class freed up their creativity and promoted a dynamic atmosphere of support and community.

The project brought out the experimental minds of the students and it was exciting to watch them come up with ideas to make their projects possible.

Con el objetivo de crear un mundo sustentable, los estudiantes de séptimo grado de la señora Guerrero en la M.S. 324, junto conmigo, exploramos la importancia de reciclar desechos y su impacto en el medio ambiente. La imaginación de los estudiantes fue estimulada al mirar el trabajo de Willie Cole, Pepón Osorio y Leo Sewell — todos artistas cuyo trabajo esta vinculado con la idea del uso de materiales reutilizados.

Formamos 5 grupos de colaboración con los que hicimos tormentas de ideas (brainstorming) relacionadas con investigaciones hechas en internet, sostuvimos conversaciones e hicimos dibujos. El hecho de que nuestra clase enfatiza la colaboración, creó una dinámica comunitaria de apoyo permitiendo y fomentando la libre expresión de su creatividad.

Participating students:

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<th>Airplane / Avión</th>
<th>Butterfly / Mariposa</th>
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<td>Saul Hidalgo</td>
<td>Fraylin Jimenez</td>
<td>Marisabel Aybar</td>
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<td>Dumas Garcia</td>
<td>Rayniel Martinez</td>
<td>Milenny Almanzar</td>
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<td>Wilfred Grullon</td>
<td>Fausto Rodriguez</td>
<td>Elianny Espinosa</td>
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<td>Dhayron Susana</td>
<td>Jonathan Jimenez</td>
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<td>Gineli Liranzo</td>
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<td>Chandelier (square) / Candelabro (cuadrado)</td>
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<td>Yenilesse Perez</td>
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Esperanza Cortes
Teaching Artist
M.S. 324
Grade 6-8 artists at M.S.324 began to approach self-portraiture, using both historical and contemporary art for inspiration. In addition to exploring techniques such as observational drawing, color mixing, and collage, artists thought about ways that they could express parts of themselves that cannot be seen. We looked at artists such as Frida Kahlo, Jennifer Packer, Alice Neel, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, who use both representational techniques and imaginative processes to explore the figure.

Our self-portraits – made through both painting and collage of found materials that resonate with us – express how we can both document and create our personalities, histories, and interests.

Participating students:
- Milenny Almanzar
- Alicia Hernandez
- Christian DuLais
- Diana Gonzalez
- Gabriella Cisneros
- Christian DeLesline
- Diana Gomez
- Gabriella Cisse
- Liliana Garcia
- Roxanna Marmolejos

Sonya Derman
Teaching Artist
M.S. 324
Portfolio
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