

Young artists 'show' off

Art show, sale at Boys & Girls Club

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Article Launched: 11/07/2008 11:47:58 AM PST

REDLANDS - The Boys & Girls Club of Redlands will present Young Artists Art Show and Sale, featuring more than 50 pieces of original artwork by members of the Boys & Girls club of Redlands.

The art will debut at "Art on State Street," and then move to the lobby of the CitiBank building for the art show with a reception and sale from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12. Sales will benefit the art program.

After many schools lost funding for visual arts programs, the Boys & Girls club began offering a California Education Code-compliant art program through Worth Visual Arts founded by Michelle Worth. During the summer sessions at the Boys & Girls Club, Worth, along with co-facilitator Sarah Slocum, teaches a variety of mediums including watercolor, oil pastels, charcoals, print making and collage.



Children at the Boys & Girls Club work on art projects for the show. (Courtesy photo)

Since the program's inception in 2002, the Boys & Girls Club has presented an art show, but the sale aspect began with the help of a few local artists.

"Michelle Worth used to go to a lot of the schools, but as funding has been cut over the years she does lessons for groups and individual lessons for students. The art program offered at the Boys & Girls club is an approved curriculum by the California Education Code," said P.T. McEwen, chief professional officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands.

"She (Worth) is the one that really knows how to engage the kids and get them to break out of their shell and do creative things. The kids get here and they're kind of timid about drawing or painting so she'll say, "Well, that's great," about whatever they're doing and then tear that page away and encourage them to do it bigger and bolder," McEwen said.

This year the club will return to the Citibank building for the 2008 Young Artists Art Show and Sale. The art show and sale began when Stephen Wormser, club board member and owner of Stephen Wormser Photography and Custom Framing, decided to encourage his friends to help the Boys & Girls club put on an art sale.



Children at the Boys & Girls Club work on art projects for the show. (Courtesy photo)

The group of photographers donated matting and framing and helped produce the first art show and sale at EOS Gallery, which was on Citrus Avenue.

The club didn't have an art sale last year, but this year, with the help of Dave McLaughlin, they were able to return to the CitiBank building.

"This year we are very excited to host the art show and sale in the CitiBank building," Dave McLaughlin said.

"I work in the building and the owners and management have been so gracious to allow us to use the building."

This spring, some of the artwork from this past summer's classes will be entered in a regional art competition. Artists from the Redlands Art Association judged the club's student artwork and determined what will go to the regional competition.



This abstract self-portrait done in pastels will be sent to an art contest to compete against other students in the region. (MICHELLE E. RAMOS / Redlands Daily Facts)

"The Redlands Art Association are big promoters and supporters of our young artists." said Mark Davis, program services director of the Boys & Girls Club.

"They have allowed us to be a part of Art on State Street where some of the kids will be displaying their art work that we will be selling on Wednesday, and RAA President Tomi Olsen is helping us with the display and loaning us some A-frames," Davis said.

The art program serves about 250 children ages 6 to 17 each year, and the art show will help cover the cost of the program and the supplies for the classes. The last sale brought in nearly \$5,000. This year more than 50 pieces will be available for sale, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$250.

"The mixed-media art would look great in a very contemporary home," McEwen said.

The Young Artists Art Show and Sale is on display Nov. 10 through Nov. 14 in the CitiBank Lobby 300 E. State St., Redlands, with reception and sale 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12.

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