

Education News & Notes

VSA arts Announces 2005 Call for Children's Art



(NAPSA)—VSA *arts*, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the participation of people with disabilities in the arts and society, has announced its 2005 Call for Children's Art. Children of all abilities in grades K-12 are invited to submit artwork exploring these questions: What does art mean to you? Why is it important? Where can you find art and where does it come from? What is art all about?

Entitled "Art is...", The Call for Art is designed as a poster for classrooms that provides multiple learning activities. Based on the work of famous artists—Frank Lloyd Wright, Ludwig van Beethoven, Kenneth Goldsmith, Edgar Degas, and Jackson Pollock—the activities include: discover the art of building; make sound visible; transform words into shapes; draw a new dance; and explore alternative techniques.

According to Carolyn Lyons Horan, an arts teacher and an arts education advocate, "The arts cross over all cultural barriers and stimulate children's natural curiosity in their world, which is necessary for continued elevated learning in all academic subjects. Art gives children an opportunity to express themselves in a creative way and provides an important outlet for communication."

Ms. Horan also believes that,

"If a child is insecure about learning, the arts can offer a way to process information and help the child be more interested in learning. Every child learns in multiple ways. The Call for Art encourages teachers to make the classroom more welcoming, challenging, and stimulating for students with disabilities."

All entries should be submitted to a VSA *arts* affiliate on or before May 5, 2005. In May, two pieces of art from each state will be selected for possible participation in a national touring exhibit that will debut in Washington, D.C. For information on the VSA *arts* affiliate that is administering the Call for Art in your state and to learn more about eligibility and application guidelines, visit www.vsarts.org.

Founded in 1974, VSA *arts* provides educators, parents, and artists with resources and tools they can use to support arts programming in their schools and communities; showcases the accomplishments of visual and performing artists with disabilities; and promotes increased access to the arts for people with disabilities. Currently, five million people participate in VSA *arts* programs each year through a network of affiliates nationwide and in more than 60 countries around the world.