



ART INSPIRATION NEWS

The Club of Arts

505 E. Columbia #130, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

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Artist Opportunities –

By Jessie Pocock

Exposion! FashionArt 2009: A Benefit for The Club of Arts

Imagine “full self-expression” and “transformation” as an artistic theme and “wearable art” as its manifestation. Challenging isn’t it? I had no idea what that looked like, or even that it was possible to achieve such expression until I was serendipitously introduced to Colorado Springs local artist Mallori Meyer.

Meyer has taught me to never underestimate the power of small talk. The night I met Meyer, we had the general “What do you do for a living?” conversation. When I told her I worked with adults with developmental disabilities she was suddenly more interested in me—she happened to be developing a fashion show art benefit and her target community was artists with disabilities. My small talk with Meyer has led to one of TCOA’s most innovative projects for 2009!

By now I am certain you are dying for me to explain what *Exposion!* is. *Exposion!* starts with professional artists working side by side with TCOA students in a project where the students creatively explore their disability by developing a piece of wearable art that expresses how they think and feel about their life. The project will consist of weekly classes to develop and put together the wearable art pieces, and then conclude with the professional artists wearing the participants “disability” to honor them at a fashion show benefit for TCOA. The anticipated outcome is an experience that “creates full self-expression and transformation through the relatedness of all people involved.” That includes those who attend the event, so be

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looking for your invitation and an event of “transformation!” For a visual of what wearable art looks like please visit www.worldofwearableart.com and click on “Winners.” Quotations here are cited from Mallori Meyer’s *Exposion!* proposal.

For more information please contact me at Jessie.pocock@gmail.com



Member's Voice

By Jennifer Bailey

Josh says life would be dull if he wasn't able to come to classes at The Club of Arts. "I'm very grateful for The Club of Arts. I used to do nothing but watch TV all day." Josh says he loves learning about music, painting, drawing, leather craft, cooking, and just everything about all the interesting classes he comes to. He's TCOA's number one fan!

He likes to meet different people, have fun with the staff (like his cooking instructor, Jimi G!), and get a chance to see his girlfriend. Josh also says he has used the skills learned at The Club of Arts at home, particularly the safety skills he learned in cooking class.

He says his favorite classes are Acrylic Painting and Fun with Music. He has asked for a keyboard for his birthday so he can begin taking piano lessons.



Josh Is TCOA's number one fan!

The Instructors who work with Josh say he is not only talented and a joy to have in class, he is helpful with new students and his winning personality helps them feel comfortable as they get to know everyone.

When asked what he would tell people about TCOA, he said, "Come in and try a class. It's a lot of fun and you meet silly people. I like that!"

Artists Inspiration-Mark

By Author Name

He is consistent, knowledgeable and talented. Mark loves the creative process and comes every week to "play in the mud" in Clay Arts, and gives his full attention to sewing, stamping and cutting out patterns in Leather Craft.

Last year, Mark and several of his classmates in Leather Craft entered their wares in the State Fair in Pueblo. His instructor, Shirley Hemphill, worked hard to create this opportunity for their inclusion in this community event, and made sure everyone who had the desire could have an entry ready.

"Mark loves the creative process and comes every week to "play in the mud" in Clay Arts"

Mark was proud to win a ribbon and plans to enter again in 2009. Way to go, Mark! Keep up the good work!



Mark displays the leather vest he is working on...

Instructor's Corner-

By Jennifer Bailey

With the sound of sewing machines a-whirrr, volunteer instructor, Kisha Raby, helps her class to build their skills and work toward independent creations. She starts off the beginners with simple items, such as pillows and blankets, then as her students gain the ability to create more complicated projects, they move on to clothing items and cloth dolls. Kisha is an expert seamstress with additional skills in basic pattern drafting, hand embroidery, heirloom sewing and smocking. Kisha customizes her sewing instruction to fit the needs and talents of her students.

Kisha has worked in the Human services field for more than 19 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with emphasis in developmental disabilities from the University of California at Los Angeles, and has been formally trained on Self Determination by the National Center for Self-Determination through immersion. Kisha developed and implemented the Supported Living Services (SLS) program for El Paso, Park and Teller Counties. Her work involves collaborative efforts with staff and community members to develop real jobs, real homes and real lives for people with mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities.



Devon shows off her specialized apron.

Kisha has received awards from The ARC for "outstanding service" and "the 40th Anniversary Achievement Award". She was also recognized by the El Paso County Bar Association for her "work with the indigent population," and the Columbine chapter of the NADD for "Outstanding Case Management."

Her talents are many and her dedication is worthy of commendation! We at TCOA are very fortunate to have her on our roster. Her students thrive under her tutelage and are always thrilled to show off the products of all their hard work. Kisha encourages her students to be creative in problem solving, such as when Devon was making an apron and made the ties longer so she could tie them herself. Her smile when she finished the apron said it all! Thank you, Kisha...from all of us at TCOA!

Class-ic Updates – Class Descriptions (by popular

By Jennifer Bailey

demand)

CERAMICS – Come learn various techniques for making beautiful ceramic pieces that are not only artistic but also functional! Instruction includes how to clean green ware, painting, glazing and all the steps needed to take home a completed ceramic item.

CLAY ART – Also called 'Handbuilding', students in this class will learn basic techniques for making pots, plates, and using forms to expand their imagination in a 3 dimensional medium. And playing in the mud is FUN!

COOKING WITH "JIMI G" – Learn the art of cooking healthy and attractive meals. Just as an artist mixes paints that will please the eye, Jimi G will show you how to mix flavors to please your taste buds! Lunch is provided – as you eat what you cook! (A \$4 fee is required for cooking class in addition to TCOA membership.)

DRAWING – Learning the basics of drawing characters, nature and abstracts. Students learn how to shade, proportion, and give detail to their creations in pencil.

JEWELRY – Bracelets, necklaces, earrings and more! Learn to make beaded items as well as make the beads themselves from clay or other mediums to make a piece of jewelry that is uniquely yours.

LEATHER CRAFT – Crafting a variety of items out of leather, you will learn to tool designs, cut and sew, make key chains, bookmarks, wallets and much, much more!

SCRAPBOOKING – Come join in on a craze that's sweeping the country. Scrapbooking is a creative way to save and share your memories. Learn to use specialized tools such as die cut templates, rubber stamps, craft punches, stencils, inking tools, eyelet setters, and heat embossing tools.

SEWING – This class is designed to teach the basics of machine and hand sewing. Whether your goal is to create decorative pillows, clothing, quilts or fabric wall décor; this is the place to explore your creative side and learn a valuable skill! Class size is limited and by reservation only. Please call 520-9222 to inquire about availability.

Please see *Class Descriptions* on page 4

The Quarterly Report

By **Jennifer Bailey**

Thanks to all of you who come to learn, laugh, and make The Club of Arts such a wonderful place to be! We also thank all the members and their families, instructors and care providers who volunteer, donate time and money, and jump in and give a hand when needed. A few of our TCOA families were generous enough to think of us at Christmas time and gave gifts of the cost of

a membership to help support the classes so enjoyed by their loved ones. TCOA depends on such donations to be able to add new classes and keep old favorites running. Please remember us this year when making decisions about your charitable giving.

Here's to a great and prosperous new year for TCOA and all its Members! Be sure to check out our website and monthly calendar for the latest news on upcoming events!

"Suggestions for new classes or improvements are always welcome!"

Class Descriptions from page 3

PAINTING IN ACRYLICS – A class that teaches the beginner by familiarizing them with brush strokes, using color, and painting on different mediums. Students will also learn how to paint from life and imagination!

PAINTING ON SILK – Come learn the art of painting on silk. Projects are incredibly beautiful and can be worn or framed to complement your home. Framed projects also make lovely gifts. Whether your artistic style is complex or simple...it looks great on silk!

RUBBER ART STAMPING: Come learn the art of rubber stamping and make beautiful handmade cards, bookmarks, wall décor, and gift items. With many rubber stamp designs to choose from, your creations will be as unique as you are! Suitable for all levels of experience to participate.

T-SHIRT DESIGN – Learn how easy it is to make and show off your own artwork where the canvas is YOU! Classes include Tie-Dye and Fabric Painting.

THEATER - Come participate in Improv Games, Movement and Voice Workshops, Script Development, and take part in skits put on throughout the year. Learn about fun prospects to visit and participate in various opportunities in the community in theater. Class size is limited, so contact us for class availability!

WOOD CRAFT – Whether it is building a birdhouse or a gumball dispenser, this class teaches how to make something functional and beautiful. Learn how to sand, stain, glue and paint to create wonderful wood projects.

YARN ART – Explore all the colors and wonder of yarn in this class! We do a little bit of everything, from latch-hook to cross stitch. Learn to crochet, knit, weave and create Machias (a traditional Hispanic art form).

POETRY – If words are your paintbrush, then this class is for you! More than rhyming, come explore all the various aspects of poetry composition for self expression.

FUN WITH MUSIC – We welcome the return of a fantastic class where students learn some music theory, tickle the ivories, beat a drum, and explore all that is music.

Donation Needs (Our Wish List)

As always, TCOA depends on your contributions of supplies and money to continue bringing these fun and exciting opportunities to the community and our TCOA Members. Currently, we are in need of:

- Ceramic Glazes and paints (ongoing)
- New paint brushes (art detail quality)
- Yarn, embroidery thread/floss, Jute
- Large, clear plastic storage containers
- Instructors to start Dance and Choir classes
- Volunteers for various duties around TCOA
- A volunteer for Web design
- Glass Casserole dishes and cake pans



Local Happenings – ACTION ALERT!!!

Distributed by: The Arc

In response to the current state budget crisis recommendations have been made to cut the following services for people with disabilities:

--- The Division for Developmental Disabilities has emergency resources for people with high need. Current recommendations would **cut those resources.**

--- Admissions to the Regional Centers were frozen five months ago and there are no funds identified to “unfreeze” the admissions. Proposals under consideration provide **no funding for admissions to the Regional Centers.**

--- The Department of Human Services has frozen any new placements by any CCB. The Legislature has to approve final cuts but as it stands now, any vacancy created by a move or a death cannot be used for to serve someone on the waiting list or to provide an

emergency resource. **The funding for all vacancies will be returned to the State.**

--- Additionally, we are also concerned that current year reduction proposals will make the survival of small service providers even more perilous and may result in cuts to people currently receiving services.

What you can do:

Call or email your Senator and Representative today. Let them know that you are a constituent. Include your name, address, phone number and email address. Tell them you understand the seriousness of Colorado's economic crisis and respect the difficult choices they must make, but people with developmental disabilities could be gravely harmed if these reductions come about. “Life or death” is not an exaggeration of the situation that people with developmental disabilities face.

“See attached list of the state elected officials for El Paso, Park and Teller counties.”

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Visit our website:
www.theclubofarts.org

***"Exposion! is
coming...
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coming!"***

Our Mission Statement

To provide an art atmosphere that promotes creativity, independence, dignity and community integration.

Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to see people full of delight as they open the door and explore their creative side. The Club of Arts sponsors independence and dignity for all people through artistic expression. We inspire people to believe in themselves while connecting with others in the community in a productive and meaningful way.

The Club of Arts, Inc. (TCOA) is a non-profit corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Specifically, this organization has been formed to a) promote culture of the arts, and b) to educate the public on art subjects that are useful to the individual and beneficial to the community. Our organization has designed and developed one (1) program in furtherance of our purposes by providing classes and activities that will develop the artistic capabilities and increase creativity of all individuals, as well as, persons with disabilities.

TCOA provides a safe environment and instruction in a class or individual format where members can learn at their own pace. Instructors promote teamwork and encourage members to share their ideas to get them engaged with each other and not only build community, but establish a standard for lifelong learning. Participants have ownership through supporting TCOA with their membership dues, giving suggestions for improving classes, helping to develop new classes to meet their interests, and the joy of giving back what they have received by helping new members. Becoming a volunteer instructor is greatly encouraged.

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Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code