

For Immediate Release
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Pratt Fine Arts Center Announces Youth Art Works Exhibition at the Douglass-Truth Branch of the Seattle Public Library April 6 - May 3, 2009

Pratt Fine Arts Center's Youth Art Works program will display collage, mixed media, paintings, ceramic sculpture and glass art in two exhibitions by students from Washington Middle School, the Chinese Information and Service Center and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

Pratt's free Youth Art Works programming offers youth of Seattle's underserved Central District visual arts training and skill building in glass art, sculpture, painting and more. "Our Youth Art Works program is specially designed to reach out to children in Pratt's immediate vicinity," said Youth Art Works Manager, Erik Halaas. "It's inspiring to see the students experiencing the excitement of success as they acquire new skills."

Pratt's youth programming has expanded in the last five years to include off-site classes at the Chinese Information and Service Center and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle. "These partnerships have allowed us to provide opportunities for a greater number of students who may not otherwise have access to arts education in a supportive and encouraging non-school atmosphere," said Tracey Fugami, Director of Education.

Through on and off-site programming, Pratt's Youth Art Works program serves hundreds of students of all abilities with free and tuition-based art classes that push youth to explore their creative expression in a variety of mediums.

What: *ARTSpark Exhibition*, featuring artwork by Washington Middle School Students
When: April 6 - 19, 2009; Student Celebration on April 8, 11:30am - 1:30pm

What: *Off-site Programming Exhibition*, featuring artwork by YAW students from the Chinese Information and Service Center and the Urban League
When: April 20 - May 3, 2009; Student Celebration on April 22, 3:30 - 5:30pm
Where: Douglass-Truth Branch of the Seattle Public Library, 2300 E Yesler Way, Seattle

These programs are sponsored by funding from Clise Properties, Inc; The Clowes Fund; Fales Foundation Trust; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Laird Norton Family Foundation; Lucky Seven Foundation; Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle; McEachern Charitable Trust; and private donors.

Since 1976, Pratt Fine Arts Center has offered art classes for everyone and workspace for artists in its equipment-rich facilities in Seattle's Central District. Pratt serves 3,400 students each year and more than 500 working artists use Pratt's affordable studios and equipment.

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