

# Youth in Arts®

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## ***OUTSIDE THE LINES OPENS AT YIA GALLERY***

SAN RAFAEL, CA – The vibrant artwork created by student artists with disabilities, from our Arts Unite Us program, is the focus of *Outside the Lines: Collaborative Art from Special Day Classrooms* opening this month at Youth in Arts.

The show runs from July 31 to Oct. 4. The YIA gallery is one of the few venues in the nation solely devoted to showcasing children's art.

Youth in Arts' Teaching Artist Cathy Bowman, who taught in many of the classes, said the artists were always thinking outside the box and willing to take creative risks.

"It's amazing to see artists who are more focused on creating art than in getting a certain result," Bowman said. "The colors, shapes and compositions invite viewers to look at their environment in a new way."

Nearly 40 classrooms are represented. Four of the works won top prizes at the Marin County Fair; a collage by students at San Ramon School also won a special award.

The gallery, at 917 C St., is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The opening reception will be held during San Rafael's 2nd Friday Art Walk, Aug. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m. In celebration of National Arts in Education Week, Youth in Arts is hosting a State of the Arts event on Friday, Sept. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Since 1981 Youth in Arts has been an affiliate of Very Special Arts (VSA), a nonprofit organization founded by Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith. Youth in Arts' Arts Unite Us program is largely supported by a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This Spring we were able to teach in 13 additional special day classrooms through the state Department of Education's Student Support and Academic Enrichment grant that the Marin County Office of Education received.

As the leading arts education nonprofit in the North Bay, Youth in Arts brings visual and performing arts to preK-12 students. Since being founded in 1971, we have served nearly one million students, developing visual and performing arts skills through programs that foster confidence, compassion and resilience in students of all abilities.

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