

Youth in Arts®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2020

Contact: Cathy Bowman
(415) 279-1788
cathy@youthinarts.org

YIA GALLERY GOES ONLINE WITH “IMAGINING FRIENDSHIP”

SAN RAFAEL, CA – Youth in Arts is creating an online, interactive exhibit to showcase its annual *Imagining Friendship* show. Celebrating young artists does not have to stop with schools and businesses closed due to the coronavirus!

Beginning this Friday, April 17, viewers can enjoy more than 70 colorful portraits and 20 emotions studies created by kindergarteners and first graders at Laurel Dell Elementary School in San Rafael, CA. The portraits have also been turned into coloring pages, which artists of all ages are encouraged to print out, color, and put up in their windows for neighbors to see.

“While many schools are still scrambling to serve their students academically, let alone provide the arts, I hope this virtual art exhibit and community coloring project can inspire others across the nation to remember the collaborative and healing power of the arts.” said Youth in Arts Visual Arts Director Suzanne Joyal. “It’s vital that we continue to connect, and that’s what artists and teachers do every day – whether it’s in person or virtually.”

The opening celebration will include the virtual exhibit and a bilingual “Drawing Emotions” lesson. It will be released at 5 p.m. Friday on Youth in Arts’ Youtube channel.

The portraits are the final project of a 12-week residency supported by the [Walker Rezaian Creative HeArts Fund](#). The Creative HeArts program was created by Youth in Arts and the Rezaian family to celebrate the life of their young son Walker, and his love of art-making. Using a rich variety of materials, children explore compassion, empathy and friendship. Each lesson builds fine motor, literacy and social emotional skills. Using thinking strategies outlined in Bloom’s Taxonomy, students practice Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating and Creating in this carefully planned curriculum. Each class begins with an adaptation of [Anne Green Gilbert’s Brain Dance](#) to center students with movement, and ends with reflection, where students practice observing, listening and speaking skills as they celebrate each other’s work.

Youth in Arts is an arts education nonprofit that has served more than a million children since it was founded nearly 50 years ago. We are still open online! Please join us weekdays at 11:08 am PDT for **#YIACre8tes**: live streamed art activities @youthinarts on Facebook and Instagram.

###