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Painting students work "artfully" together

Summary: This spring, University of Minnesota, Morris painting students are learning that it is beneficial for a child to both make art and be surrounded by it. Michael Eble's Spring 2009 paintings students worked in collaboration with the St. Mary's kindergarten class in Morris to create vibrant, unique pieces of art for the new Someplace Safe office.

(March 23, 2009)-This spring, University of Minnesota, Morris painting students are learning that it is beneficial for a child to both make art and be surrounded by it. Michael Eble's Spring 2009 paintings students worked in collaboration with the St. Mary's kindergarten class in Morris to create vibrant, unique pieces of art for the new Someplace Safe office. Eble is an assistant professor of studio art and curator of the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery.

Someplace Safe works with the Violence Prevention Program, which offers free advocacy services for sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. The new office includes a Parenting Time Safety Center a neutral location used for child exchanges and supervised parenting time. This child-focused area is where the painting will be donated and hung for permanent display.

There will be an opening reception to unveil these new paintings to the public at Someplace Safe from 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, April 9. Refreshments will be provided, and everyone is invited to view the beautiful, framed paintings that will surely bring joy and new hope to the space.

Seven college students and 12 kindergarteners worked together to create brightly colored, abstract art. College students filled ketchup bottles with paint and the kindergarteners used them to create multicolored drip paintings. Eble's class helped the younger students brainstorm lists of their favorite things and, based on those lists, created stencils of everything from hearts to pterodactyls. The kindergartners used the stencils to paint over their brightly-colored drip backgrounds, creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

The purpose of this project was to teach students in Eble's Beginning and Advanced Painting classes to create public art in collaboration with a community partner, while brightening the inside of the Someplace Safe office. The students also gained an appreciation of the positive effect they can have on a community through their art and a greater understanding of Someplace Safe and St. Mary's kindergarten class. Artists included in the exhibit:

2009 Painting Students

Evan Gragg
Michelle Leedahl
Sarah McDermott
Mitch McGuire
Yang Mee Moua
Jessica Thielen
Samantha Vankrevelen

Mrs. Sayles' Kindergarten
Tyler Braegelmann
Ben Michael Eble
Derek Giese
Kennedy Hill
Tristan Hoyer
Calista Kill
Sarie Kirwin
LaRae Kram
Nickolas McDonnell
Gabriel Papiernik
Katlyn Suess
Gage Tomoson

This project was part of a Service Learning Course. Service Learning is a classroom experience that utilizes community service, community based research, or other civic engagement activities to meet course goals and community needs.

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