

Bringing Art to Life

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THE
art
CONNECTION



Art from the Heart

With spring in the air, there is hope for sunshine, for the revitalization of spirits, and for a reason to smile. Working with a range of nonprofits including elder housing, homeless shelters, services for battered women, and programs for people with disabilities, The Art Connection reaches out to the underserved communities who need hope the most.

“We believe art will reinforce the hope at the heart of our work.”

Where budgets are being cut with few options for anything other than basic needs, we suggest that art is in fact a basic need. Art offers opportunity for reflection and inspiration. It can change a mood, increase morale, stimulate dialogue, and build community.

The Art Connection recently placed 19 original artworks at Transition House, a program that works with people recovering from the trauma of domestic abuse and violence. There, Risa Mednick had this to say: “We believe art will reinforce the hope at the heart of our work. And especially at this moment when we're serving more people with dwindling resources we need art around us to brighten our days, feed our souls and remind everyone who

walks through our doors that Transition House nurtures creative thinking and possibilities.”

One more of the many examples illustrating the positive impact of art comes from Winter Valley Residences, a housing program for older adults. Liz O'Rourke, activities coordinator at Winter Valley, shared: “The art that we received [from The Art Connection] has enhanced the environment for everyone at Winter Valley. When I see a resident sitting near one of the paintings or photographs, it seems that they have company that they are visiting with. They are no longer alone, but have a visual companion,

continued inside...



Edie Bower's oil stick & graphite on paper, “In the Balance” was recently selected by Transition House in Cambridge.

THE MASTHEAD features “Damariscotta Meadow” by Martha Jane Bradford. This digital drawing/linkjet print, a gift from the artist, was placed at City Mission Society of Boston. Established in 1816, it is the oldest multiservice agency in New England, addressing the education, economic, and social needs of low and moderate income individuals and families in Boston.

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The Art Connection is a nonprofit organization that expands public access to visual art by placing the work of donor artists and collectors on the walls of community service organizations. Since its inception in 1995, this unique gifting program has supported 270 agencies in their personal selection of 4000 pieces by 270 artists and collectors. Within these healing environments, the original works of art provide welcome opportunities for reflection, inspiration, comfort, and hope. Copyright 2009 by The Art Connection, Inc. We welcome your contributions and comments.

This program is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events.



Surrounded by Color and Line

Q: What does it mean when museum attendance goes up in a downturn economy, even while museum funding goes down? A: People look for more to engage the mind during difficult times, and the arts certainly do engage. The arts engage us to ask questions – What does this dance mean? Why did this artist do this to that canvas? How did they do it? Do I like it? – and in turn connect us to our own thoughts and feelings as well as those of others.



Jim McDonald in front of two oil paintings by artist Cora Roth, part of a solo show of 25 donated works on display at The Art Connection offices through June.

The demand for the art we provide to community nonprofits and many experiencing difficult times is now at an all time high. We're scrambling to meet this demand, and to facilitate the donation and installation of original artwork in their centers and agencies. Luckily, the supply of beautifully diverse and evocative artwork, full of color and line, is also being made available by many generous greater Boston (and beyond!) artists to keep pace with this demand. Check out the testimonials in this newsletter, and on our website.

But that bit above about funding going down...well, while the arts may be their own (mental) stimulus package, funding is critical to the ongoing success of any arts program. We've been extremely fortunate to have received a Harvest & Seed Matching Gift Fund of \$100,000, matching *all* new gifts this year as well as any increase in giving by existing supporters (quite a wonderful incentive, wouldn't you agree?). We really need your help to take full advantage of this opportunity by June 30. We're at \$70,000. A little goes far, especially when it is matched! Know that your support is meaningful, and please help in any way that you can. Thank you so much to everyone who has supported us this year and to those of you who will continue to support our unique program.

– Jim McDonald, Executive Director

...Art From The Heart (...cover story cont'd)

a place to go, to see, to wonder about and possibly dream about. Just a glance at one of the art works can cause me to pause and enjoy the moment in a way a blank wall can't and never will. I see some of the art every day and I wonder how I ever managed before with the emptiness of the bare wall. The colors, textures and movement of these original works of art bring creativity and beauty to lives that can often feel uninspired, boring or dull."



Cathy Bennett's gouache, "Blooms Day & Night," was selected by Winter Valley Residences in Milton.

Artist Anne Silber on partnering with The Art Connection

Anne Silber can certainly speak first hand about the impact the current economic crisis has had on the art world. "I have work to sell but not as many buyers and unfortunately with the economy, that impedes creative initiative." Silber, a silk-screen printmaker who has donated over 150 works to The Art Connection, admits that it is a struggle to sell art these days, but that hasn't stopped her from donating. Covenant



Anne Silber's serigraph "On Maui" (above) was placed at Covenant House in Brighton. Covenant House has provided quality, affordable housing to the elderly for the past twenty five years.

"It seemed like such a great idea to give something back to the community...humanizing the walls, lifting someone's spirit."

House, a multi-cultural residence for low-income elderly, received two of Silber's works in March and placed them for ideal viewing in the facility's entryway. An honored and flattered Silber noted the exceedingly appreciative response to her donation, proving how now more than ever is the time to give back. "I've always been open to donating as many pieces as they can find a good home for, and now there are more and more people needing the services where my artwork might find itself."

Silber's willingness to donate her art began even before The Art Connection was around. She had always been interested in donating to non-profits herself, but when The Art Connection was established it made it easier to get her work to people who would appreciate it most. "It seemed like such a great idea to give something back to the community, make a difference to the people in the environment who find themselves there, humanizing the walls, lifting someone's spirit."

– Michael Rizzo, Northeastern University Intern



Recently Adopted Works

Sandra Butler's monotype, "Ruminare," (left) was installed at St. Francis House in Boston, the largest day shelter in New England. Toward Independent Living & Learning (TILL), Inc., a program for adults with disabilities in Chelsea, selected Nan Hass Feldman's encaustic painting "Cave Dance" (above). Shirley Partoll's oil monotype, "Colossus," (above right) was selected by Shattuck Hospital in Boston.



Receptions & Events!

Massachusetts U.S. Representative Edward Markey and City of Malden's director of human services Christine DiPietro pose with Jim McDonald before one of JoAnn Rothschild's monumental works, "Mothwing," at the grand opening celebration of the New Malden Senior Center.



As a result of a recent wine & food house party, we have twenty-five new friends! And all their donations were matched through our Harvest & Seed Matching Gift Fund. Above are Amy Cerrito, Colin Murtaugh, and Sheila Connolly, also friends of Art Connection program coordinator Sarah B. Shallbetter, shown far right with board member Julie Novakoff.



Jason Pechinski's oil on canvas, "South Station," and "Tidal Pool," a lithograph by Jane Goldman, were both recently selected by City on a Hill Charter Public School in Roxbury.

Work by New Art Donors!



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Check out our Harvest & Seed Matching Gift Fund Carrot-o-meter!
We have raised 70% of our goal, but we need your help to finish off that carrot! Donate online at www.theartconnection.org



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