

THE

CATALOG

VOL 6

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS' ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEB 2007



Dear Friends: Our 14th program year opened in September with a contemplative theme: "Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky." Each year our guiding idea evolves from listening to the thoughts and voices of our faculty artists and participants. Faculty artist Barbara Beach imagined spending a whole year of workshops exploring the color blue. The blue of the ocean, shimmering with the stars above. Upon reflection, the notion captures all we do at Community Access to the Arts.

We began by providing simple access to creative materials. Thousands of workshops later, we now offer a range of experiences that encourage both faculty and participants to grow together, deepening the connections that resonate for

them. Participant David Zahorian said, "I think I'm ready to perform a Shakespearean sonnet!" Participants develop their own artistic vision, and through it reveal to us how they see the world: the essence of art!

Please join us for "Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky," on May 12th & 13th at The Founders' Theatre, and drink in the many variations on this powerful theme. There have always been three points on CATA's compass: the artists, the participants, and the audience. We look forward to welcoming you, and seeing your reflection in, and on, these sounds, movements and colors.

Our studios are open whenever you'd like to see our process first-hand. We wel-

come your support. Our work grows as more people are introduced to it -- we'd love for you to raise your voice to help spread the word about CATA's powerful mission!!

-SANDY NEWMAN, Executive Director
-JANET REICH ELSBACH, Board President

Our Mission

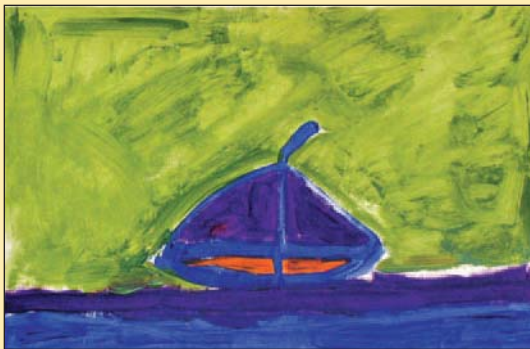
CATA seeks to lessen the stigma of difference and disability through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.



By Tina St. Amand



By Natasha Mona Lorick



By Sean Gallagher



By Ellen Gerlich



By Eric Schumann

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Katie Clarke, Chelsea DeSantis, Alex Kim, Marlene Marshall, Julie McCarthy, Rebecca Tucker-Smith



Gordon Sasaki teaches in the education department of Community and Access at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



Artist in Residence: *Gordon Sasaki*

Gordon Sasaki is coming to CATA for a residency starting on Monday, June 25, 2007. A New York based artist, his artistic and teaching methods use a multi-sensory approach to address concepts of diversity and inclusion. He is a Pollock-Krasner grantee in 2003 and a VSA arts International Fellow. The residency will include a series of inclusive hands-on workshops designed as professional development for teachers and artists, as well as for parent and student participation. The workshops will begin with basic foundational ideas and techniques and progressively build toward more complex projects and ideas. All workshops are inclusive and adaptable for diverse audiences with an emphasis on process and assessment. The workshops are studio based where all participants will develop a body of work; simultaneously the sessions will

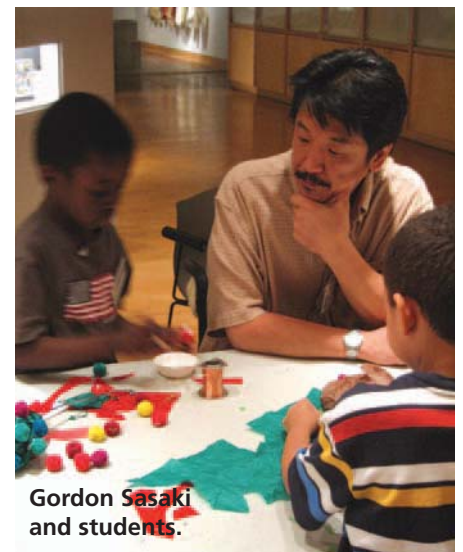
also act as a model of how to create an inclusive art classroom with adaptive techniques and approaches for populations with special needs.

The residency will consist of five days of workshops and will conclude with an exhibition and celebration of the work produced during the residency on Saturday, June 30. Each of the workshop sessions will include a mixed group of CATA participants, faculty artists, CATA staff, board members, family members, community members, caregivers, local artists, and teachers. Using this formula as many as forty people will have an opportunity to participate in the residency. In addition, the exhibition/celebration at the end of the week will be open to the public. Please contact the office if you are interested in participating.

We are delighted with the prospect

of bringing Mr. Sasaki, a renowned artist who also happens to have a physical disability, to CATA. The artist-in-residency model is a perfect compliment to our ongoing programming; an intense period of collaboration between Mr. Sasaki, our faculty artists, and the CATA participants will provide energy and inspiration that will influence the whole program year. It is an honor that an artist of Mr. Sasaki's status wants to come to CATA and this program speaks deeply and profoundly to our mission of opening doors of artistic possibility to individuals with disabilities.

This project is supported by funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and VSA arts of Massachusetts's ADA Cultural Access Initiative Grant Program. In addition, CATA has been awarded grants from the following Local Cultural Councils, local agencies that are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency: Alford Egremont Cultural Council, Lee Cultural Council, New Marlborough Cultural Council, Pittsfield Cultural Council, Sheffield Cultural Council, Stockbridge Cultural Council, and West Stockbridge Cultural Council.





Sandy Newman and Guest Reader Sally Jane-Heit



Guest Readers Marie-Elizabeth and Taylor Mali with CATA Participant Cathy Horan (center)



CATA Participants Tommy Woolard and Mary Huberman

CATA'S ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION & POETRY READING

I Am a Part of Art

OPENING RECEPTION: SAT, AUG 19, 5-7PM



"I Am A Part of Art" invitation; Left: Event Photos.

Grants & Foundation Highlights

- Funding from the **Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation** to support CATA's performing arts companies.
- Support for the Sasaki summer residency program from **VSA arts of Massachusetts** and from the following **Local Cultural Councils**: Alford/Egremont, Lee, New Marlborough, Pittsfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge.
- Funds from **Joseph H. and Carol F. Reich Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** to support CATA programs in the public schools.
- Organizational support from the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, **The John Sellon Charitable Trust** and **The Berkshire Bank Foundation**.



CATA Volunteer Owen Tucker-Smith modeling CATAdirect products at the Great Barrington Farmer's Market.



The Moving Company performing a samba at Cirque Oh So CATA, CATA's Annual Gala & Performance.



New Partnerships & Collaborations

- CATAdirect products are currently for sale at the **Pine Cone Hill Home Store** in Lenox and at the **Institute for Contemporary Art** store in Boston. Customized CATAdirect products were sold at the gift shop at **Shakespeare and Company** during their season, and CATAdirect had a table at the Berkshire Country Day "Wear to Be" sale and at the **Great Barrington Farmer's Market**.
- CATA collaborated with **Pine Cone Hill** to decorate a tree at the **Berkshire Museum's Festival of Trees**.
- CATA programs offered at **Camp VISION**, a summer camp for the visually impaired.
- CATA collaborates with **Berkshire Family and Children Services** to offer its first workshop series at the **Northern Berkshire Creative Arts School** in North Adams.

Honors

- Nominated by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, CATA received the **Outstanding Community Arts Collaborative Award** from the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education.
- CATA and Black Ice Entertainment screened "Too Much to Stop" a film documenting the collaboration between Dawn Lane and Marisa Yudkin at the **National Brain Injury Association Conference** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. John Whalan, Dawn Lane and Sandra Newman served on a panel to discuss the project.
- Dawn Lane was honored at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center annual gala as a **2006 Unsung Hero**.



Left: Dawn Lane receiving 2006 Unsung Hero Award. Below: Sandy Newman accepting the Outstanding Community Arts Collaborative Award.

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We thank the following individuals, corporations & foundations for their generous support! Please let us know of any omissions or misspellings. This list reflects gifts received from January 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007.

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Natasha Mona Lorick

by Evelyn Wilska



On a cold and overcast winter afternoon, a group of life-size, brilliantly adorned paper figures is gathered in one of the CATA classroom's tall, ceiling-high windows. These colorful self-portraits of CATA

participants hover like benevolent muses, inspiring the five people hard at work at the tables below. The students are writing poetry.

On this day, guest poet Belle Fox-Martin is guiding the participants in exercises of imagination that will take them, each in his/her own unique way, for the depths of the sea to the infinite reaches of space. She's asked them to begin with the line *If I were a star...* It's not long before CATA newcomer Natasha Mona Lorick has filled her star-shaped piece of paper with glorious poetic imagery. When it's her turn to read her work, she recites with great expression, with joy and enthusiasm. There is indeed the light of stars in her eyes.

Natasha, who turns 27 this year, was born in Philadelphia, one of ten children. She graduated from Camp Hill Tri Form Community and was introduced to CATA in September 2006. Her creative gifts are not restricted to poetry -- she is an accomplished weaver, studies visual arts at IS183 (where she'll help with set design for the annual CATA spring performance), acts with Shakespeare & Co., sings with Vikki True, dances with Dawn Lane, and juggles with Roger Reed.

CATA, Natasha says, has not only provided her with exciting and diverse opportunities for creative expression, but also with something that's ever more important to her: a family.

If I was a star... by Natasha Mona Lorick

I would be a beautiful shooting star and wear a white gown with an angel crown, standing tall like a very bright queen with the king, for a king I would ask my Sasha to be the king and live in a castle in the heaven's.

2007 CATA CALENDAR

ART SHOW

15183 Art School of the Berkshires
Opening Reception April 7
Through April 27



ANNUAL GALA & PERFORMANCE

"Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky"
The Founder's Theatre
May 12, 7pm
May 13, 1pm

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Gordon Sasaki
Residency June 25-29
Exhibition June 30

ANNUAL ART SHOW

"I Am A Part of Art"
CATA Gallery
August 11

For info: call 413-528-5485 or visit
www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org



40 Railroad Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Community Access to the Arts seeks to lessen the stigma of difference and disability through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.

Meet the Interns

Our 2006-07 program year is off and running with over 1,000 workshops! We have been very fortunate to have three generous and talented young women assisting in our workshops. Their contributions to CATA reflect our mission to transcend disability and to connect as human beings!



LEAH GREER

Senior, Monument Mountain High

"As an assistant to an artist once a week in a program called Community Access to the Arts, I work with four incredible women. In the comfort of their home at the Riverbrook Residence in Stockbridge, MA, we cut shapes of colored paper, paint landscapes, and glue shells, tissue paper and buttons to surfaces. One young woman, Tracy, has difficulty speaking, and so we communicate through smile and action as we work one-on-one. We are a team. I hold a cut out piece of paper down while she paints; I get her materials and sometimes even give her color suggestions when she is not sure

what to use; we need each other to complete the art project. Marlene, the artist in charge, told me that Tracy used not to enjoy coming to the art class but now looks forward to each week's class. I felt flattered, but more than flattery, I felt a similar anticipation. I, too, look forward to seeing Tracy, and all of the other women, for one hour every Tuesday evening because in that hour we not only create "art", but, together, we let ourselves be in a space of comfort, warmth and acceptance. It is in this place that I feel that I have grown as an individual and made a difference in the lives of these women -- I know for sure they have made a difference in mine."



CAITLIN HAMMOND

Senior, Lenox Memorial High

"CATA is my first internship and I think it's safe to say that I couldn't have a better place to intern at. This is a fun place; it's easy going and no one judges you. Rarely is anyone in a bad mood. Everyday is different: everyday there is someone to look forward to seeing. I really like to be on my feet and running around and I get to do that A LOT! The workshops are really fun because

they are a mix of stuff I love like art and new things that are a challenge for me like dancing and juggling. CATA is important; it gives people with disabilities a chance to do things they love, have fun, make friends and not be judged harshly for who they are."



OLIVIA WILBER

Freshman, Monument Mountain High

"I volunteer at CATA because my heart tells me to. I love being with the people there. At CATA I'm always learning something new, I see the world through a different point of view. This year when The Moving Company started, Dawn said we were going to work on solos for this year's theme, 'Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky.' It's been amazing to see what everyone comes up with; there is so much emotion in everyone's work! I adore working at CATA. I get to explore new ideas and dig a little deeper into old ones. CATA is not something I do in my spare time, CATA is a way for me to learn. It's a way for me to be myself around people that care about each other. Thank you for letting me be with people I love."