



Community Access to the Arts
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Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.



CATA to Perform in International Arts Festival

CATA's Moving Company has been chosen by VSA Arts International to perform at Sydney Harman Hall in Washington, D.C on Monday, June 7th at Noon. They will present their trademark piece, "common ground," choreographed and directed by Dawn Lane, featuring a cast of 14 dancers of diverse ability and 14 assorted white chairs. Selected by a panel of distinguished jurors, The Moving Company is the only performing arts group from New England selected from over 100 international applicants.

The showcase, entitled "Locomotion," is free to the public. The Moving Company will perform on the bill with Dancing Wheels of Cleveland, Ohio and Karen Petersen Dance of Miami, Florida. Moving Company dancers include Dawn Lane, Jane Goodrich, Lorimer Burns, Hazel Elsbach, Olivia Wilbur, JoAnne King, Teresa Thomas, Natasha Lorick, Marissa Rose, Louisa Millonzi, Susan Booth, Hope Gardner, Maria Mazzocco, and Susannah Millonzi. For more information, visit www.kennedy-center.org/calendar and click on June 7.

D.C. SPONSORS

CATA's trip to Washington, D.C. is being underwritten by **Peter Pan Bus, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, Berkshire Life Insurance Co. Corporate Contributions Committee, Iredale Mineral Cosmetics, Ltd,** and the following individuals:

Anonymous (2), Ella & John Baff, Michael & Marcia Beck, Willard & Millicent Booth, Ellen & Peter Brewer, Linda Day, Kathleen Favaloro, Ira & Jami Grossman, KC Hyland, Joseph & Jane Kavanau, Kathleen King & Ned Macksoud, Joan & David Lane, Eleanor Lord & Margaret Wheeler, John MacClaren & Christopher Sink, Sandy Newman, Elaine Radiss & Rich Petrino, Emily Rechnitz & John Paladino, Karen & Tom Robards, Steve & Leslie Shatz, Tyler & Chris Weld, Joe Wheaton & Dick Lipez, Dr. Jay Wise, Christine Wojnar, Wonderful Things.

If you would like to help underwrite CATA's trip to Washington, please contact Katie at (413) 528-5485.



THE CATALOG

APRIL 2010

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS

NEWSLETTER



Sticks & Stones Form the Bones of CATA's Annual Performance

Community Access to the Arts presents "Sticks & Stones" at The Founders' Theatre in Lenox on Saturday, May 1 at 6pm and Sunday, May 2nd at 1pm. CATA's 2010 theme, "Sticks and Stones," invites CATA faculty and participants with disabilities to explore the simplicity of these materials in art-making as well as the meaning of the old schoolyard taunt: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me."

CATA is thrilled to announce a collaboration this year with lyricist **Randy Courts**, who recently worked with writer/lyricist Will Osborne on **MAGIC TREE HOUSE: THE MUSICAL**, a nationally-touring show based on the best-selling series by Mary Pope Osborne.

Courts, Vikki True and 20 CATA participants will premier "The People Chain," a song he composed especially for the gala performance. They will be joined

by special guest, Broadway, film and television actor, **Donna Bullock**. Other premiers include works by Shakespeare's Players, directed by Barby Cardillo and Diane Prusha; The Moving Company, directed by Dawn Lane and Olivia Wilbur; the Tap Murmurs, directed by Stefanie Weber; and The Juggling Connection, directed by Michael Wolski.

CATA will also present "Branching Out," an exhibit at Ferrin Gallery in Pittsfield May 6-9, featuring an installation of the stage set from the performance (see article on page 2).

CATA's annual gala weekend is the organization's largest fundraising effort, the proceeds of which help provide over 1,000 arts workshops throughout Berkshire County. The show celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities, wowing and inspiring the audience with CATA's message of inclusion. Underwrit-

ers and sponsors of the "Sticks & Stones" performance weekend include: **Emily Rechnitz & John Paladino, Elaine & Bernard Roberts, Anne & Ernest Schnessel, Berkshire Mountain Distillers, Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wine, Joan & Jim Hunter, Lola Jaffe, Kwik Print, James Marden, Kate & Joel Milonzi, Helice & Steven Picheny, Elaine & Ben Silberstein, Marcia Walsh & Eric Block, and Liz & Mark Williams.** For more information, visit www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org or call (413) 528-5485.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Help CATA underwrite the cost of the performance and receive 2 tickets to the Gala with your donation of \$1,000. All sponsors receive prominent recognition in the gala program. Call Katie at (413) 528-5485 for more information.



Above: Susie Hardcastle works with participants on hand-stenciled panels. Right: Janice Shields works with Kathy Horan on a stick and twig grid component.

Branching Out

Ferrin Gallery has invited Community Access to the Arts to present "Branching Out," a unique exhibition featuring the theatrical set from CATA's upcoming annual performance. The opening reception for "Branching Out" takes place on **May 6th at 6pm** and is the first time in CATA's 17-year history that a stage set will be dismantled, exhibited and sold.



The Artists' Resource Trust funded a series of set-design and construction workshops led by CATA faculty artists Susie Hardcastle, a visual artist from New Marlborough, and Janice Shields, a rustic artist from Stockbridge. Fifteen adults with disabilities are working with Hardcastle and Shields, using materials donated from Dresser Hull and Caligari & Son, to create the set. The installation will include tree-like structures, paper maché rocks, hand-stenciled panels, and a rustic grid made of sticks and twigs.

Funded by the **Pittsfield Cultural Council**, the "Branching Out" exhibit at Ferrin Gallery runs from May 6 through May 9, 2010. Proceeds from the sale of the set will help fund CATA's arts programs. Ferrin Gallery is one of the nation's premier ceramic art and sculpture galleries.

Photos: Eddie Allen, Christina Lane, Richard Migot, Senta Reis, Liana Toscanini, Thomas Zander; Design: www.deeluxdesign.com

ART ON TOUR UPDATE & 2010 SCHEDULE

Art on Tour is a traveling exhibit of artwork created in CATA's many visual arts workshops. Faculty artist Pat Hogan frames, curates and hangs each show. CATA staff coordinates with galleries, museums, and community spaces to coordinate show dates, opening celebrations, and promotion plans. Art on Tour embodies CATA's mission of nurturing and celebrating the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the arts. The objective of Art on Tour is to increase community awareness of CATA. Participants receive a 50% commission on artwork sold. Many thanks to our Art on Tour Sponsors: **Rita Kasky & William Cohn, Lew & Joyce Scheffey, Susie Crofut & Ben Luxon, New Marlborough Cultural Council, Northern Berkshire Cultural Council, Pittsfield Cultural Council, and Sandisfield Cultural Council.** CATA exhibited at VSA in Boston in December. Pictured left to right: Eric Schumann, Thomas Zander, David Zahorian, and Michael Platt. Thomas Zander, a civil service volunteer from Germany working at Leander House, drove fearlessly through Boston to get our artists to the opening!

Show Dates	Venue	Opening Reception
March 19-April 30	Art on Main, Gt. Barrington	March 27, 5-7pm
May 5-9	Ferrin Gallery, Pittsfield	May 6, 6-8pm
June 17-30	Topia Arts Center, Adams	June 17, 5:30-7:30pm
July 29-Aug 30	I'm a Part of Art	July 29, 5-7pm
	Annual Art Show & Poetry Reading	
Oct 16-Dec 11	Sandisfield Arts Center	Oct 16, 3-5pm
November 13-29	New Marlborough Meeting House	Nov 13, 4-6pm



Reflections from CATA's Working Artists



By **Kate Ryan** Inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night"



CATA artists, Kellie Ward, Susan Booth, and Kate Ryan were commissioned by Dr. William O'Donnell of Pittsfield to paint four pieces to hang in his office lobby. With creative and technical supervision from CATA faculty artist Senta Reis, the artists created their own depictions of four classic paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso and Georgia O'Keefe.



By **Kellie Ward** Inspired by Georgia O'Keefe's "Sunflower, New Mexico, 1935"



Senta was able to identify which CATA artist would be best suited to the varied styles of the famous painters from years of experience working with them in CATA's visual arts workshops. She then chose the medium best suited to the artist's abilities and guided the execution of the paintings with tips on artistic challenges such as composition, scale and brush strokes. The artists rose to the occasion and appreciated Senta's encouragement. Said Susan Booth, "Anything Senta wants me to do, I'll do it!"



By **Susan Booth** (Above) Inspired by Picasso's "Main aux Fleurs" (Below) Inspired by Monet's "Water Lilies, 1916"



On finding out that she was being commissioned to create a new work, Kellie Ward said, "I was extremely proud. A person who saw one of my previous paintings commissioned it."



Each CATA artist received a commission for her work. Said Susan Booth, "I put it in the bank to save for my trip to Washington, D.C. with CATA's Moving Company." Kate Ryan said, "I'm a great one for spending money on clothes and art supplies, so I put it right in the bank."



Teresa Thomas and volunteer, Leslie Shatz, having fun in their CATAdirect workshop.

CATAdirectCRAFTS COOPERATIVE

Now in its seventh year, CATAdirect has recently become a "crafts cooperative" in which participants earn group commission on sales of merchandise created in our free weekly workshop. **A wonderful example of CATA's model of inclusion, CATAdirect is a place where friendships are formed, creativity and self-esteem are nurtured, and all involved take away more than they give.** Community members support CATA through the purchase of handmade cards and jewelry and are often seen proudly wearing their CATA accessories at special events around Berkshire County! CATAdirect products are sold at CATA events, on CATA's web site, and in local retail stores including **The Red Lion Inn** in Stockbridge and **The Bookloft** in Great Barrington. Our products have been featured in Berkshire Living Magazine, WAMC radio, and Capital News 9 TV (Albany, NY). CATAdirect continues to evolve and expand.

"Everybody loves the CATA notecards...I use them for just about every casual...or even more formal...written Thank You, Welcome To The Berkshires, or even Get Well occasion...and I often hear (sometimes months later!) how special the recipient thought it was to receive a written note on a very special card!" - **Nancy Kalodner**, Owner, Benchmark Real Estate and CATA Board Member

This past year, we introduced a mentorship component to the program, working with students from Monument Mountain Regional High School, and added "guest" teachers (local artists, faculty, or community members) who lead one or two workshops, imparting new skills to the group and introducing new product ideas. CATAdirect meets Tuesday afternoons from 1- to 4:30pm.

Annual Appeal Donors

September 1, 2009 – March 23, 2010

We are so pleased to report that our very loyal and generous supporters are making it possible for CATA to continue offering over 1,000 workshops annually, serving over 500 people with disabilities in Berkshire County. If we haven't heard from you and you are still considering a gift of any amount, please know it will be much appreciated and put to good use in many and varied ways...from performing in Washington, D.C., to growing programs in our schools, to providing special painting workshops for those with severe physical disabilities. Our thanks to all of you listed below for supporting our annual appeal:

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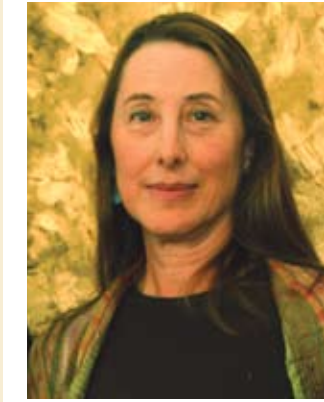
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Dear Friends,



As our annual performance is right around the corner, we're so glad to have this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous support during CATA's annual appeal this year.

We are truly appreciative for the continuing kindness and care from our long time donors as well as extremely grateful for our new supporters who recognize CATA's important work throughout our community. You are ALL the reason that CATA continues to flourish and grow!

We look forward to your joining us May 1st and 2nd to celebrate and honor our performing artists and CATA's gifted faculty. Working with our *Sticks & Stones* theme has generated enormous creativity, which we know will stir and move you! After the performance Saturday evening, you'll enjoy a delectable reception in the lobby of the Founders' Theatre with great music and dancing, organized by our wonderful Gala Committee.

We also hope you'll join us at some of our upcoming Art on Tour exhibitions and on May 6th at Ferrin Gallery for a unique installation in which CATA transforms elements of its *Sticks & Stones* set design into individual pieces of artwork which can be purchased to beautify your home or office and serve as a reminder of this year's compelling theme.

Our deepest appreciation to all of you in our wonderful community and those beyond our borders who have embraced CATA's exemplary model for creative social change.

With warmest regards and thanks to all,

Sandra Newman
Founder & Executive Director

Ben Silberstein
Board President

CATA WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CATA is pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Directors: **Deborah Caiola** (pictured left) and **Liz Williams** (pictured right with husband, Mark, and Sandy Newman at CATA's art opening at The Norman Rockwell Museum last October). Deborah Caiola is the Director for the Center for Development in Lee, MA, a day-habilitation program serving adults with developmental disabilities. Liz Williams is President and Marketing Director of four private label divisions of G-III Apparel Group in New York City, and resides part-time in Tyringham, MA. Both advocate for people with disabilities and are wonderful ambassadors for CATA.

