

MAY - 4 2010

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# Celebration of student art

BY JULIE GRABOWSKI

PHOTO BY WILLIAM MANCEBO

Century 25 in Union Landing is providing more than just a good movie these days. In addition to filmmaking, visitors can experience a special collection of student art in the theater lobby through May 12.

Sponsored by the Art Association of the East Bay (AAEB) and Cinemark USA, the collection represents 30 student artists from Conley-Caraballo High School in Hayward. Artwork was proudly chosen and installed on April 22 by the artists themselves, along with some help from AAEB President Diane La Mountaine and Art Teacher Renee Whitworth.

The display is a showcase of major art projects done throughout the year, including the American Dream Chinese Scroll Project and American Dream Stencil Project in which students combine poetry and personal images to reflect their own American Dream. Psychedelic rock posters, portraits of inspiration, and dot paintings inspired by Australian Aboriginal art are also on display.

"I'm excited to give them a chance to show work in a local venue," says Whitworth, who has been working toward this goal for many months. "It's

an opportunity to show how talented and creative they are and get the recognition they deserve."

Artwork is presented in conjunction with Art IS Education, a program run by the Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, currently celebrating its tenth anniversary. Founded by the Alameda County Office of Education, the Alliance serves to keep art education alive in schools as an essential part of learning.

"Art making allows students to practice higher level thinking without resistance to academics," says Whitworth, who is in her third year of teaching at Conley-Caraballo. "Schools need a subject where students can explore ideas on what it means to be a person-identity." She believes that art provides students a very important venue and language to express ideas and vision, affirming them as intelligent, creative people. The confidence and freedom they find in art can also facilitate learning in the more traditional academic classes.

The pieces on display are personal and expressive as the artists exhibit great hope and honesty about themselves and their world. While the approaches are unique, the yearning for peace, safety, family, unity, and celebrated individuality ring harmoniously throughout the collection.



This is a moving offering from our youth and creative future.

Friday, May 7, Conley-Caraballo staff welcomes students, parents, and friends for an informal reception at the theater from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to acknowledge the artists' hard work. For more information contact Diane La Mountaine at (510) 477-9459.

**Conley-Caraballo High Art Show**  
**Through May 12**  
**Century 25 Cinema**  
**32100 Union Landing, Union City**  
**(510) 477-9459**  
**Free**