

Creativity

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How can creativity be nurtured through the arts?

● **HAWK:** This is one area of education that encourages students to be independent thinkers, energetic, intuitive, and willing to take risks in a safe environment.

● **JESSEE:** The arts can make you feel, laugh, cry, think, give you transferable ideas to solve a problem not covered in a textbook. The arts can feed your soul and your stomach and, at the same time, nourish others. The art of living is LIVING creatively — through your passion. The arts turn on the light of the soul.

● **LACHMANN:** The arts are a means by which we express learning, yearnings, discoveries. The arts employ tools and skills and information in order to realize these expressions, so yes, the arts nurture creativity. Do not mistake the making of art as creativity.

● **McNEIL:** Through offering various activities and creating a safe environment where students feel free to express themselves, even if it differs from the "norm." My classroom is like this. Students feel free to experiment and explore as they voice themselves through art.

● **MITCHELL:** The arts, whether in an informal or formal environment, can nurture creativity in so many ways. Different people need different types of instruction. For some artists, the educational environment is great. For others, it's the mentor who does the trick. For still others, exposure to the arts is key. For most young artists, a combination of all three is essential. Exposure to the theatre, museums, poetry readings, musical and dance performances is so important. Exposure to the arts helps us to see the possibilities of expression so we are also inspired. We should also realize that the arts can influence in many ways. I am fond of cross-disciplinary and cross-genre

inspirations. A poet may need to visit more museums than poetry readings to grow. A playwright may need to listen to lots of jazz. And so on.

● **PHELPS:** The arts and creativity are very closely connected. The arts give students a chance to use their creativity. In art, there are parameters to go by, but also a lot of freedom in how it's expressed.

● **SOWERS:** It is a fact that the arts are a vital component to creativity and contribute to successful life-long

learning skills. An arts-research study showed that each of the top 10% of Bill Gates' corporate executives had had some form of arts-related studies in their background. Thinking "out of the box" results in imagination and creativity at its best! As an arts-advocate teacher, I know the value of creativity. It stimulates students to become self-propelled learners, develops habits of reflective thinking and discovery, and increases retention of concepts. Creativity is "nurtured through the arts" by exposing students to an environment and

curriculum conducive to exploration, one that is multi-sensory and multi-intelligent. It can open new worlds of knowledge, self-expression, problem-solving, cultural awareness, and self-esteem for students. *A!*

Editor's Note: For more about "Nurturing Creativity," including additional photos and artwork, see pages 6A-6C online: www.artsmagazine.info



**"Imagination is the highest kite one can fly."
— Lauren Bacall, actress**

Shown: Youth in creative workshops taught by Pat Jessee and Kathy Hawk.

Concert, Gala Benefit Arts Corps

New Program Offers Arts Instruction for Youth

Two events will benefit **Arts Corps**, the Johnson City Area Arts Council's new arts education program for underserved communities and at-risk youth.

● British pianist **Martin Jones** will perform Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, Johnson City. The program will include several classic works, plus a series of George Gershwin piano pieces, in celebration of the release of Jones' all-Gershwin CD. \$10 suggested donation.

● The Johnson City Area Arts Council will present its annual fundraiser, the **4" x 4" Miniature Masterpieces Gala**, Sunday, March 19 from 5-8 p.m. at the Carnegie Hotel Ballroom. The night's festivities will include a gourmet buffet and silent art auction. Prior to the Gala, an **exhibition** of the miniature masterpieces will hang March 3-17 in the Arts Council's Gallery, 214 East Main Street. Tickets to the Gala are \$125 per couple. During the party, ticket holders will draw numbers that correspond to their miniature masterpieces. They can also bid for other artworks in a silent auction of paintings, watercolors, photographs, sculptures, fiber art and woodcarvings. The Arts Council hopes to net \$20,000 from the event to help fund the Arts Corps.

Regarding Miniature Masterpieces, Sarah Davis, Executive Director of the Johnson City Area Arts Council, said, "When people see all these incredible works of art in one place, they recognize how blessed we are by the quality of talent in this area and by the generosity of our regional artists who understand the importance of the role the Arts Council plays in our children's broader education. I feel gratified that a portion of funds raised will go to serve children in our new Arts Corps program, and those children will be [led] by teaching artists who are also excellent [instructors] and committed to working with young people."

For tickets or more information, call 423-928-8229, email jcartsm@mountnet.com, or visit the Arts Council's website: www.arts.org. *A!*