



Appreciation is a wonderful thing:
It makes what is excellent in others
belong to us as well. -- *Voltaire*



Rooftop at the deYoung: The art of Georgia O'Keeffe inspires thoughtful observation and creative responses to nature.

March 10. The deYoung Museum opened its doors for an exclusive day for Rooftop students, staff and chaperones to experience the visiting exhibition, "Modern Nature: Georgia O'Keeffe and Lake George."

The show featured O'Keeffe's famed magnified botanicals and panoramic landscapes of Lake George, New York,

the summer retreat of the family of her husband, Alfred Stieglitz. Through pre-engagement at school prior to the field trip, and in the galleries at the museum, students explored the artist's depictions of nature and the "spirit of place" that her paintings evoke. A hands-on art activity at the museum, and guided instruction back at Rooftop encouraged our students to forge their own relationships with nature and create personal, artistic responses to their experiences, using both creative writing and visual art.



Auction Gratitude!

Sincerest thanks to Rooftop's Art Parents, teachers, and students who collaborated to create the fantastic works of art that graced this year's Rooftop Auction & Children's Art Show.

The Hall of Flowers shined with the creativity of our children & the spirit of our community!

Thank You!

ROOFTOP INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL! Friday, May 9th!

Parents and Caregivers are invited to join this favorite Rooftop Springtime tradition and enjoy student performances and a special guest appearance by musician, beatboxer and acapella singer Bryan Dyer.

Be part of the community celebration!

Send food from your home culture to share at our feast of international foods - or help to serve the treats to our students!

Volunteers welcome and very needed!
See Wednesday Bulletin for more details.

Rooftop Students Shine at the SFUSD Youth Arts Festival and SF City Hall

The steps of City Hall were the gathering spot for "SF Unified" a collaborative choral performance featuring students from five schools, including Ms. Toupin and Ms. Woo's classes. The performing group were all students of David Greenbaum (Mr. G) who gathered together to perform songs including originals "Blue Marble" and "Pierre the Penguin." The show-stopper was the Giants fans' favorite, "Don't Stop Believin'."



The Youth Arts Festival also featured performances by Mr. Mayhew and Mrs. Toupin's classes at the Asian Art Museum. Dozens of other students represented Rooftop from all grade levels with visual arts and media arts in a special student film screening at the Koret Auditorium in the SF Public Library's Main Branch. Thank you to all our students whose creativity added to the celebration of youth arts in our city.



"The Lifted Lorax" Fifth Grade & StageWrite

After a 12-week residency that pairs literacy with theatre arts, our fifth grade students presented the culmination of their experience with "The Lifted Lorax." Taking the classic Suess story and analyzing it for narrative elements including setting, characters and plot, the students wrote their own version of the story. Using Suess-style rhyming couplets, the students worked in groups to re-tell and re-enact the story from the perspectives of a variety of characters, from those in the story, to related characters invented by the students, such as a blade of grass who witnesses the Onceler and his greedy ways. Though the words were their own, Suess' style and message of protecting our environment came shining through.

A Reply from Outer Space

Inspired by Astronaut Chris Hadfield's in-space rendition of Bowie's "Space Oddity" that circulated YouTube last spring, Mrs. Toupin's 3rd grade was so excited by this talented singing astronaut that they composed and performed their own song for him. Remarkably, Rooftop has received a video reply from Commander Hadfield where he holds a blue marble and reminds us that we are not passengers on "Spaceship Earth" we are the crew members and we must ensure it's health and safety. To see the original video, our student's song, and the reply, follow these links:

Chris Hadfield's Space Oddity
<http://tinyurl.com/d5cd4lr>

Earth Calling: Commander Chris Hadfield
<http://tinyurl.com/n3aw8rr>

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on The Blue Marble: <http://tinyurl.com/lkripzw>

*"A seed? What will that do? Bring the swans back, make the sky blue?
I'll try what I can, I'll do what it takes, I'll plant the last seed, I'll de-gunk the lakes."*

Mission Science's "Whale Week" Inspires Student Art & Innovation



The visit of a gray whale skeleton inspired discovery at Rooftop in March. Following the hands-on interactive whale experience provided by Mission Science Workshop, our students continued their explorations with creativity and innovation in the classroom.

In the lower grades, visual art explorations added new dimensions to the students' experience with the whale workshop. Ms. Smith's first grade class explored the art of scientific illustration by drawing, painting and annotating a variety of whale species in ink and watercolor.

Mayeda students were assigned to further examine the problems of ocean pollution and the plight of whales. Students were challenged to innovate actual, impactful solutions to our ocean crisis using art.

Project proposals included apps, children's books, games, movies, songs, and installation art pieces. One group proposed series of city wide life-size murals of whales as puzzle pieces, each with a QR code that links to an online puzzle. When all the mural puzzle pieces have been found & the puzzle solved, a corporate sponsor would make a donation to a whale protection organization. Another group created an educational board game called "What You Whaling About?" that includes game cards to educate about pollution and the oceans.

SFArtsEd K-5 Dance Residency with Esme Kundanis-Grow

Rooftop's favorite dance instructor returns this spring for the third year to bring an eight week dance residency to our K-5 students. Esme's dance curriculum is tied to California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards, while focusing on the joy of movement as self-expression. We asked Esme to share a little bit more about herself and she replied, *"I remember dancing in my room to music and moving often as a child. My mother encouraged me to attend class, and I began when I was 3. From there, I trained in various dance forms and attended University of Colorado at Boulder, obtaining a BFA in dance. I became a teaching artist 3 years ago... I was recommended to SFArtsEd and mentored by the incredible Michael Koob. I am forever grateful for his guidance."* (Michael was Rooftop's former dance instructor who passed away a 2 years ago).



Esme adds that what she likes best about teaching is sharing a new language with students. She revels in the sight of students speaking with their bodies in creative ways. She enjoys witnessing their moments of new found awareness. For students who love to dance, Esme encourages them to follow their passion. As she tells the kids in her class... *"whenever you hear music...move your body!"*

Did you know... SFArtsEd offers performing arts summer camps? Students aged 9-14 can enjoy camp this summer at our own Mayeda Campus, and camp for younger students aged 6-9 will be hosted at Glen Park School. See the SFArtsEd website for more information.

Khafre Jay & Hip Hop For Change Middle School Residency

6th, 7th and 8th grades have started an art residency with Khafre Jay and his organization, Hip Hop for Change. This dynamic artist offers instruction in the 4 elements of Hip hop: Breaking, DJ'ing, Graffiti Art, and MC'ing. His focus is on hip hop as a tool for a positive cultural exchange and personal expression.

Students are given a different perspective on hip hop culture as an art form that can empower and educate. Students discover hip hop's potential to give voice to youth through progressive and positive music. Khafre Jay's residency incorporates lectures, videos, hands-on learning & experimentation, and interactions with other hip-hop artists for our kids to experience. One such artist is dancer Tony who joined this past week and demonstrated breaking. The kids tried this dance form for themselves.



A Performance of Learning of the kids' experience with Hip Hop for Change will happen either at the International Festival (depending on timing with other student and guest performances) or at a special Mayeda Campus assembly in May. Watch the Wednesday Bulletin for details.

"The Butterfly Effect" at the Tenderloin National Forest

Rooftop community members returned to the Luggage Store Annex Gallery and Tenderloin National Forest for a special Sunday Streets event. "The Butterfly Effect" celebrated the wonder that butterflies bring to our world with art and science.



As call to action to protect the migratory paths of the monarch, the stage was filled with poetry and song, provided by community members and the Rooftop Bluebear band, Blade and emcee'd by Andi Wong. A butterfly artmaking table was hosted by retired Kindergarten teacher, MaryAnn Cruz and third grade teacher Judy Toupin hosted a milkweed seed planting station (the monarch caterpillar's favorite food). A monarch butterfly photo-booth captured the joy of the crowd on a sunny Sunday on Ellis Street.

