



Palo Alto
ARTCenter

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Images available on request. To view images go to: www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)

The Palo Alto Art Center Presents...

Youth Art 2008 and the Fifth Annual Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibitions

May 11- June 1, 2008

**~ Public Opening Reception with Student Artists ~
*May 14, 2008 / 5:30-8:00 p.m.***

PALO ALTO, Calif. — The Palo Alto Art Center (PAAC) and the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) will again collaborate and celebrate the artistic gifts of our community's students K-12 by hosting the **Youth Art Exhibition** from May 11-June 1, 2008. This annual exhibition highlights the creative and artistic output of students who participate in visual arts education programs within the PAUSD. It features instructor-selected work that demonstrates artistic accomplishment and innovation in the classroom. A component of these programs is the Spectra Art program that provides elementary school students with experiences that explore a wide variety of media, artists and artistic processes. The companion exhibition, **Cultural Kaleidoscope**, is an arts education program of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation (PAACF). This artist-in-residency program partners grades 1-5 classes from schools in the PAUSD and the Ravenswood City School District (East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park). Its goal is to deepen students' awareness of diverse cultures through the creation of independent and collaborative art projects. Cultural Kaleidoscope lessons also help students experience art and poetry curriculum related to California's Visual Arts and Language Content Standards.

A free public opening reception with the student artists will be held at the Palo Alto Art Center on May 14, 2008, from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The opening reception will include an awards presentation at 6:30 p.m. featuring the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Graduating Senior Awards and Public Art Commission Purchase Awards. Additional reception events include a hands-on workshop from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. (pre-registration required) presented by the Adult Studio Program at the Art Center.

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“For more than 20 years the annual Youth Art Exhibition has continued to be a visual presentation of the tremendous creativity of the young artists, and the great strength of the Palo Alto Unified School District in recognizing the importance of developing the artistic gifts in our children,” said Linda Craighead, Executive Director of the Palo Alto Art Center. “The remarkable student work created for both **Youth Art** and **Cultural Kaleidoscope** reflects the dedicated efforts and commitment of Palo Alto teachers to provide valuable art instruction to K-12 students in the face of demanding curriculum requirements.”

Cultural Kaleidoscope is provided to classrooms free of charge and is made possible by generous grants from the Hurlbut-Johnson Fund, Cisco Systems Foundation, Citigroup Foundation, Washington Mutual Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation, Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, Arts Council Silicon Valley's Community Art Fund, California Arts Council's Youth Education in the Arts, Fenwick & West LLP, Morrison & Foerster LLP, the Palo Alto Art Center, City of Palo Alto, and private donations.

For further information regarding the **Youth Art** and **Cultural Kaleidoscope** exhibitions please contact the Palo Alto Art Center at: Phone: 650.329.2366 / Email: artcenter@city.palo-alto.ca.us / Website: www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter.

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The Palo Alto Art Center (founded 1971) is a nationally acclaimed, regional visual art center whose exhibition program focuses on documenting - and celebrating - the art and artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Center's mission is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences, and related educational programs. The Palo Alto Art Center, Division of Arts and Culture, City of Palo Alto, is funded in part by support from the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and the Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council. The Center is open to the public without charge from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday; and 7:00-10:00 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. The Center is located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303. For further information: Phone: 650.329.2366 / Email: artcenter@city.palo-alto.ca.us / Website: www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter.

Cultural Kaleidoscope is a program of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation. The mission of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) (www.paacf.org) organization founded 1973, is to support the mission and goals of the Palo Alto Art Center, promote unique art experiences and education for people of all ages, and serve as the Art Center's advocate and ambassadors in the community. The mission of the Art Center (founded 1971) is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences, and related educational programs. The Foundation, through its fundraising efforts, enables the Art Center to offer innovative educational experiences for children and adults, produce high-profile exhibitions and catalogues, pay artists equitable participation fees, and broaden its audience to serve the community as a truly regional art center.