



SOS ART Cincinnati

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SOS ART RETROSPECTIVE 2016-2020

SOS ART RETROSPECTIVE: 2016 - 2020

Exhibit presented by SOS ART
in collaboration with Kennedy Heights Arts Center

Curators: Vaishnavi Ramanathan and Saad Ghosn

January 9 - February 27, 2021

Kennedy Heights Arts Center
6546 Montgomery Road,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45213, USA

Sponsored by The Charles H. Dater Foundation and
The George and Margaret McLane Foundation



SOS ART is a non-profit charitable organization which mission is to encourage, promote and provide opportunities for the arts as dynamic vehicles for peace and justice and for a better world.

Kennedy Heights Arts Center is a non-profit community arts center which mission is to enhance the life of the surrounding community through arts and cultural experiences that embrace diversity, foster creativity & build community.

CHILDREN/YOUTH ART ACTIVITIES

SOS ART's Mission is to promote, encourage and provide venues for the arts as vehicles for Peace and Justice and for a Better World.

A major educational goal of SOS ART is to engage children/youth in the process by exposing them to issues of peace and justice, informing them, triggering their thinking and involving them in a dialogue about the issues. The purpose is to help introduce and internalize values of peace and justice in children/youth through the arts. The arts will serve as a starting point to discuss such issues and also as a way to actively engage children/youth through their own creative process in addressing them.

SOS ART is using the opportunity of this retrospective exhibit with all its included messages on peace and justice by 90 artists to engage children/youth to actively take a part in it and add their voice to it.

Following are 3 art-related activities that children/youth could engage in while visiting the exhibit in person or remotely from the comfort of their home. The product of their art activities will be shared in person and online and will help continuing the dialogue and reflection.

Thank you to all the children/youth who would participate!!!

Please bring your images, answers, statements to Kennedy Heights Arts Center (KHAC) or send them by e mail to: sosartcincinnati@gmail.com
For additional information please call KHAC at: 513-631-4278 or SOS ART at: 513-751-3777

A) First Children/Youth Art Activity

- 1) While visiting the exhibit or while going through the book documenting it, please spend time reviewing all the images and read their messages.
- 2) Select one image to which you respond and which message touches you particularly.
- 3) Do your own research on the issue addressed by the artist. Research the internet for information relating to it and develop your own understanding of it. If not familiar with how to proceed, ask for help from an adult (parent, teacher, family friend) or from a peer versed in the use of the internet.

4) After doing your own research, respond with a drawing of your own addressing either a specific or a more general aspect of the issue that interests you or has touched you in particular. Do your drawing using color pencil, crayons, etc. on an 8.5x11" sheet of paper (paper and packets of crayons are available to take away at KHAC during the exhibit).

5) Then write a short paragraph about your drawing, its meaning, how it relates to the issue of peace and justice you are addressing, its message, etc.

6) After you are finished with both your drawing and statement, please drop them off at KHAC or e mail them, the drawing as a jpg attachment, and the statement as a typed text, to: sosartcincinnati@gmail.com

7) If received on time (i.e. before February 15), you will be invited to participate in person or remotely at a meeting at KHAC to present and discuss your work. Your work will also be posted online on a SOS ART Retrospective Youth gallery on the SOS ART website: sosartcincinnati.com

Below is an example of such an activity completed by Sanat Ananth, 11 years old

1) Sanat was touched by the painting "**Spirit of the Buffalo**" by Scott Donaldson (see below and page 26) which deals with animals being hunted to near extinction.

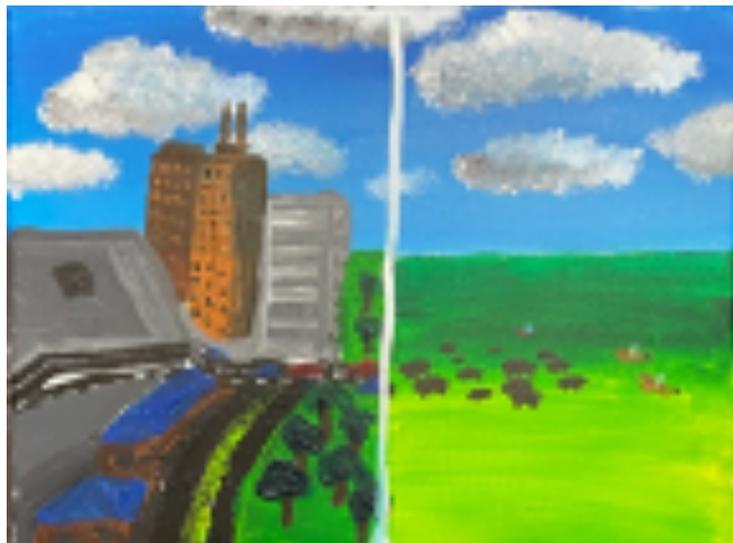


2) Sanat researched the issue of extinction of animals using the Internet and developed a better understanding of it and of its many aspects.

3) Sanat did his own drawing/painting (size 8.5x11") in response to that issue focusing on the particular aspect of the replacement of animal habitats by urban and city developments.

4) Sanat wrote a statement about his drawing, its message and the issue it was representing.

5) Below is Sanat's image:



6) Here is Sanat's statement accompanying his drawing:

"I was inspired by Scott Donaldson's "Spirit of the Buffalo" painting because I liked the details in it. There were many small details such as the little trees on the hills, the lake, and the big, puffy clouds that seemed like they were rising from the ground, like at Yellowstone. I focused on the buffalo and used that as the theme of my painting. I made this painting of how the buffalo were hunted, but I also added a few of my own ideas. On one side, buffalo are being hunted in the Great Plains in the 1800s. On the other side, the buffalo's habitat has been replaced by a modern-day big city with busy roads and many cars. As the buffalos transition from one place in time to another, they turn into cars, and the plains turn into roads, buildings, and sidewalks. I really enjoyed making this painting!"

- Sanat Ananth, 11 years old

B) Second Children/Youth Art Activity

For this activity we have selected 10 images from the show and accompanied each of them with a small description of what the artwork meant and its intent.

We would like you to answer some questions, do some research, also create an artwork based on the instructions.

- 1) Select an image of the ones we have chosen.
- 2) Answer the questions and do the research we have asked you to do.
- 3) Create an artwork (a drawing or another type) following the instructions.
- 4) Drop off your answers, drawing (or other type of artwork) to KHAC or e mail them, answers typed as text, and the drawing (or other type of artwork) as a jpg attachment, to: sosartcincinnati@gmail.com
- 5) If received on time (i.e. before February 15), you will be invited to participate in person or remotely at a meeting at KHAC to present and discuss your work. Your work will also be posted online on a SOS ART Retrospective Youth gallery on the SOS ART website: sosartcincinnati.com

Below are the chosen images and their accompanying questions and proposed activities:



Devan Horton's work (**Offer**, page 44) looks at the way we degrade our environment, generating waste by consuming more than we need and clogging the landscape with trash.

- 1) Can waste be recycled and if yes which one, and what does recycling do?
- 2) What is the effect of the non-recyclable waste on the environment?
- 3) Can you think of and list five ways in which in your daily life you can reduce, reuse and recycle materials in order to prevent trashing the environment?
- 4) Collect some waste material from your daily life and use them for creating a piece of art.



Ivan Ivanov's **Ball of Shame 2** (page 46) is made of cutouts from newspapers and ads to present a view of our current society- violent and lacking in morals.

- 1) If you could change the world in a positive way, what would it be like?
- 2) Create a collage of this world using cutouts of images and words from magazines, newspapers and advertisements that convey what this better world would be like.



Mario Barbi's **Hunting the Whale** (page 10) talks about man's desire to dominate nature and the disastrous effect this can have on us.

- 1) Can you list 5 reasons why we should not try to destroy nature.
- 2) Can you list 5 ways in which you as a person can do your part to take care of nature.
- 3) Do a drawing or another type of artwork illustrating an example of how we as humans are destroying the world.



Ana England's work **Listen** (page 29) talks about how little we really listen to what others have to say. Listening to different opinions helps us grow and mature as people.

- 1) Are there examples in your life where you were told something important but did not listen. Give some of them.
- 2) What is the best piece of advice someone has shared with you and what did you learn from it?
- 3) Do a drawing or another type of artwork regarding the advice you were given.



Dorothy Gehres Fraembs uses the image of the **Statue of Liberty** (page 32) to ask what is the true character of this country.

- 1) What is the history of the Statue of Liberty?
- 2) What is the symbolism of the torch she is holding in her right hand? What is the symbolism of the 7 spikes on her head?
- 3) Which do you think are the core values of this country- Equality, Justice, Liberty, Freedom? Explain what each means.
- 4) Do a drawing or another type of artwork that represents any one of these core values.



William Howes' photographs (**Standing Proud** and **Down & Out & Forgotten**, page 45) document neighborhoods where familiar buildings are being torn down in the name of development.



- 1) Can you research and list at least 3 historical buildings in your city that were torn down.
- 2) What are the reasons for which beautiful and historical buildings are being torn down? What can be done to prevent this from happening?
- 3) Do a drawing or another type of artwork of a building from your neighborhood that was once a landmark but exists no more. Write why it was important and needed to be protected, also the memories you have of it.



Jake Brinkmann has created a work depicting the American aviation pioneer and author **Amelia Earhart** (page 15) who broke many barriers imposed on her by society.

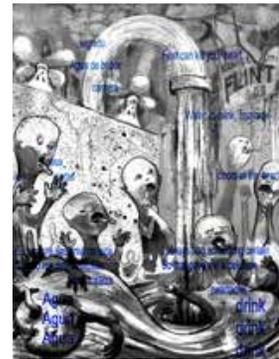
- 1) Who is Amelia Earhart and why is she such an important symbol both for women and for daring and dream-pursuing individuals?
- 2) Jake Brinkman created his work not with paint, crayons or pencil but with duct tape! Create an artwork of a person who inspires you using different materials that you find in your home.
- 3) Write why this person inspires you.



Jim Conroy's paintings (**The Grey** and **Outside Eden**, page 22) feature people who are ignored by society and live their life as homeless people. All they want from us is a kind word, a little smile and some sharing of the resources that we have been bestowed with.



- 1) How many homeless people live in the United States?
- 2) Which city in the United States has the largest number of homeless individuals? How many are there in the city where you live?
- 3) What are some of the reasons people become homeless? What can be done to solve their problem?
- 4) Do a drawing or another type of artwork of (a) homeless individual(s) you have seen. Write how you think you can help make their life better.



Kevin Harris' work (**Agua de Beber, Water to Drink**, page 41) reflects on the water crisis of Flint, Michigan. Water is one of the most precious resources yet we unthinkingly waste it. How about closing the tap while we brush our teeth or making sure that we do not have any leaky taps at home?

- 1) Why is water so important for life? And what are the dangers that may affect it and affect life?
- 2) What are solutions that can be used to protect water? Also to insure it to every part of the world.
- 3) Is water lacking in the USA? Which parts of the country are drought prone?
- 4) Do a drawing or another type of artwork depicting ways in which you can save and conserve water.



Oliver Lackey's work (**Mississippi Tree**, page 54) depicts the horrors of racial violence and reflects his life experience as an African American individual.

- 1) Why were there slaves in America and how did they come here?
- 2) Reflect on racial equality in our country. Do your own research to find out if minorities benefit equally in our society (income, education, health, law protection, etc.).
- 3) Do a drawing or another type of artwork on the theme of racial equality.
- 4) Write how you can create a more harmonious and racially just world.

On the previous page (page 107) is a line drawing by Cincinnati Street Artist EMPIRE CITIZENS; its title is: "Blinded"

1) Color the drawing (you may cut the page out of the book if easier for you).

2) The drawing is about the effect smartphones and social media have on individuals, who become consumed and distracted by them, blinded to the reality that exists right in front of them.

How are smartphones and social media affecting your own life? Can you think of instances where you did not see the truth even when it was obvious in front of you.

Write a couple of paragraphs about the positive and negative influences smartphones and social media have on our modern life; also on the fact that sometimes we do not or even refuse to see the obvious truth, and why.