



For Immediate Release: 03/5/2015

Contact:

Heather Groll | heather.groll@ogs.ny.gov | (518) 474-5987

SIXTH ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBIT FEATURES ART INSPIRED BY PLAZA ART COLLECTION

Students From 60 Local Schools Display Their Art at the Empire State Plaza

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the opening of the 2015 Empire State Plaza Art Collection Student Exhibition on the Empire State Plaza Concourse. Established in collaboration with the Capital Area Art Supervisors, more than 1,000 pieces of work created by students from 60 schools in 11 Capital Region school districts will be on display through March 20.

“I can think of no better way to celebrate the Plaza Art Collection than by exhibiting the artwork of students who have been inspired by the paintings and sculptures that make up the state’s extraordinary collection,” Destito said. “Giving these students’ their first taste of public exposure in a space shared by the works of Jackson Pollock, Alexander Calder, and other Abstract Expressionists is a wonderful way to observe National Youth Art Month. I commend the Capital Area Art Supervisors and my curatorial team at OGS whose dedication and hard work have made this exhibit a success for each of the last six years.”

The student exhibit is the result of a collaboration between the OGS Plaza Art Collection Office and the Capital Area Art Supervisors. Through special tours and educational resources, the program introduces the Plaza Art Collection into the curriculum of local elementary and middle schools where the students are invited to create their own works of art by interpreting the Plaza Art Collection.

“This exciting exhibition celebrates multiple perspectives of how our students see the world around them. It is the largest and most comprehensive visual narrative of art work produced by children in the Capital Region in grades K-8, who have become engaged learners around one central theme,” said Sheila M. Elario, K-12 Instructional Administrator for Art at Guilderland Central Schools. “In many of the works, students were asked to collaborate, take risks by pushing the media, try new ideas and think in a creative way to express their interpretation of the Empire State Plaza Art Collection.”

The exhibit, held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month, features works of art created by students in kindergarten through eighth grade. School districts represented include Scotia Glenville, Guilderland, Shenendehowa, Voorheesville, Albany, Niskayuna, Ichabod Crane, Mohonasen, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Bethlehem, and North Colonie.

An opening reception for the exhibit is being held on Thursday, March 5, featuring Ginger Ertz as the guest speaker. Ertz has been the *Museum Educator* at the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College for 12 years, where she is responsible for the development and implementation of all K-12 and community education programs. She worked as the *Educational Programming Coordinator* for the Brattleboro (VT) Museum & Art Center for several years prior. A sculptor and painter, Ertz holds an MFA degree, has taught art classes in a variety of media to children and adults, and has shown her work extensively in New England and the Capital Region. She is the recipient of a 2009 *New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship*

The Empire State Plaza Art Collection consists of 92 modern art paintings, sculptures, and tapestries that were purchased in the late 1960s to the early 1970s, including works by Alexander Calder, Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko. In all, 82 artists who were working in New York at the time the collection was acquired are represented. The collection, selected by a commission appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, was purchased with state funds during construction of the Empire State Plaza.

###