

## About Kidspace Turning 5 in '05

Kidspace is celebrating its 5th anniversary in 2005 as a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, and MASS MoCA.

Kidspace is a contemporary art gallery and art-making space for children, teachers, and families. School programs and educational materials are designed for elementary schools in North Adams, Florida, Clarksburg, and Savoy, Massachusetts. Kidspace organizes an after-school artist mentor program for 6th – 10th graders in the North Adams and North Berkshire school districts. Working with Kidspace staff and artists, students and teachers learn new ways to connect contemporary art to their classroom activities and to their everyday lives.

The public is welcome at Kidspace to view exhibitions and to create their own art. During the school year, public hours are Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 pm, plus holiday hours. The rest of the week is reserved for school groups. Summer public hours begin July 1, when Kidspace will be open every day from noon to 4 pm, through Labor Day. Admission to Kidspace is free. Public art classes and special workshops are offered during school breaks and the summer, and arrangements can be made to hold birthday parties in Kidspace. Please call Kidspace at (413) 664-4481 ext. 8131 for more details on hours, programs and program fees, and exhibitions. And check out the Kidspace web site at [www.massmoca.org/Kidspace](http://www.massmoca.org/Kidspace).

### Credits

Kidspace is a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, and MASS MoCA. Additional funding has been provided by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency), Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency), Brownrigg Charitable Trust in memory of Lynn Latham, Ruth E. Proud Charitable Trust, The Hearst Foundation, and High Meadow Foundation. Magic Gardens received an in-kind donation of copies of *The Story of Frog Belly Rat*, Bone books and magic seed packets from Angela Roberts, and Tim Rollins, Timothy Basil Ering, and Emily Cheng. Special thanks to the MASS MoCA for their continued significant role in planning, promoting, designing, and installing the exhibition.

Kidspace at MASS MoCA  
presents

# Magic Gardens

March 31–  
September 5, 2005

Featuring Paintings by:

**Tim Rollins** and K.O.S. and students  
from the North Berkshire School Union

**Timothy Basil Ering**

**Emily Cheng**



**Kidspace**

1032 MASS MoCA Way  
North Adams, MA 01247



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL  
Cultural/Economic Development Program



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

This is the garden of make-believe,  
A magical garden of make-believe.



Where flowers chuckle and birds play tricks  
And a magic tree grows lollipop sticks.



Lyrics from the title song of *The Magic Garden*,  
a children's television program (late 1970s-early 1980s)

Throughout the ages, artists have created images of magic gardens. Some are illustrations of make-believe places in which flowers come alive or have supernatural powers. Others are views of real spaces where plants produce interesting patterns and walkways such as a maze or a topiary garden, or a colorful flower and vegetable patch. The Kidspace *Magic Gardens* features vibrant paintings by two individual artists and an artist group, each imagining various ways of using flowers and gardens for their magical properties.

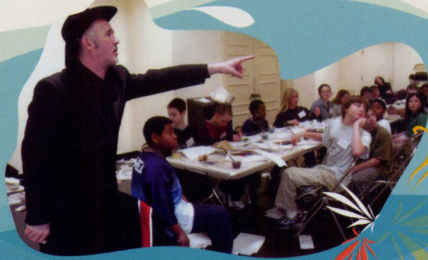


## Magic Gardens

In March 2005, conceptual artists **Tim Rollins** and K. O. S. (Kids of Survival) of New York City worked with the 4th – 8th grade students in the North Berkshire School Union to create flower paintings based on William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The students designed their own art works based on their responses to the special flower used by the play's mischievous character Puck. The liquid from this flower when placed on an individual's eyelid causes this person to fall in love with the next living creature encountered. The student art works were overlaid on text from Shakespeare's play, linking the beauty of the written word with the magic of painted flowers.

Children's book illustrator **Timothy Basil Ering** of Somerville, Massachusetts shares with us his interest in the storytelling property of flowers. Twenty-four original illustrations from his popular picture book *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* are included in the exhibit. In this story, Ering tells how a young boy lives in a dark, despairing place called "Cementland" until the monster Frog Belly comes to life to help him build – through hope, perseverance, and a watchful eye – a colorful flower garden. *Magic Gardens* also includes a series of lush, mixed media flower paintings Ering specifically created for Kidspace.

Painter **Emily Cheng** of New York City shows us how nature's seasons affect the color and pattern of flowers in her large-scale paintings. Cheng's work is also influenced by various eastern and western cultures. She incorporates multiple styles from various periods within a single work of art. For example, in one flower painting Cheng might include elements of a European Renaissance style and others from a distant era of Chinese painting. While her work does not necessarily illustrate a specific story, it can be read for symbolic, cultural, and historic information on flowers.



## Tim Rollins and Kids of Survival (K.O.S.)

Tim Rollins, a conceptual artist from the South Bronx, established in the 1980s the K.O.S. ("Kids of Survival") when he was a public school art educator. He discovered that his students responded to visual and literary art, though other educators thought they would not be capable of understanding complex concepts such as in Shakespeare or Kafka. Since then, Tim and K.O.S. have completed conceptual art projects that combine literary text and painted images in hundreds of communities from Albany, New York, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from Mexico City, Mexico, to Munich, Germany. Subjects they have explored include Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Martin Luther King's *I See The Promised Land*, Franz Kafka's *Amerika*, and Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Their work has been shown throughout the world and is in many museum collections including Williams College Museum of Art and the University of Virginia Art Museum. Tim continues to mentor international students of all abilities and also is the resident professor of art and education at Drexel University, Philadelphia.

## Timothy Basil Ering

released his picture book *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* in 2003, the same year he illustrated Kate DiCamillo's *The Tale of Despereaux* (which won the Newberry Medal in 2004). *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* won first place in the New York Book Show for children's picture books in 2004, and



## A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Tim Rollins enjoys reading William Shakespeare and for the Kidspace project he focused on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. His collaborative work on view in the *Magic Gardens* shows us one of the important elements in the play – the magic flower that caused people to fall in love with each other used by the woodland fairy Puck. Draw below your view of fairies with magic flowers. What kinds of magical things does your flower do? Where does your fairy live?



nt and then you will see!

## Emily Cheng

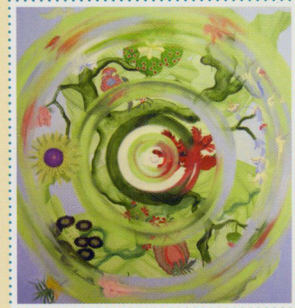


Emily Cheng has a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and has studied at the New York Studio School. She currently teaches Asian Art History at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and Junior Painting at RISD. She is the recipient of fellowships from the New York Foundation of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Emily also has completed an artist residency at Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, New York. Emily has had solo shows at museums and galleries in the United States and internationally including: Plum Blossom Gallery, New York; Winston, Wachter Gallery, New York; Bravin Post Lee Gallery, New York; Schmidt Dean Gallery, Philadelphia; Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong; Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines; Byron Cohen Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri; The Bronx Museum; and the Cincinnati Center of Contemporary Art, Ohio. Her upcoming solo exhibition will open in September 2005 at the Ayala Museum in Manila, Philippines.

The Society of Illustrators, New York, selected original illustrations for their 45th annual illustration exhibition. Arthur A. Levine Books of Scholastic Inc. released his most recent illustrated picture book by Deborah Blumenthal, *Don't Let The Peas Touch*, in Fall 2004. Tim continues to illustrate books and also shows his work in local art galleries and alternative gallery spaces in Massachusetts.

## Matching the Past to the Present

Emily Cheng's flower paintings are magical because she incorporates elements taken from different cultures' works of art.



Take a look at the following 17th-century Indian textile and then look at Emily's *Flowertree (Spring)* painting.



Can you find the element she used from the textile?



The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone  
Frog Belly Rat Bone,  
One, two, three . . . .  
You must be patient