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photos by Laura Mueller

massculturalcouncil.org



**Kidspace at MASS MoCA**  
1032 MASS MoCA Way  
North Adams, MA 01247  
413.664.4481 x8131  
www.massmoca.org/kidspace  
at MASS MoCA



*It's Elementary!* was organized by Laura Thompson, Kidspace Director of Exhibitions and Education, with Angela Roberts, Kidspace Education Coordinator, and Judith M. Burton, Professor, Teachers College. Special assistance in planning the exhibition was provided by: Regina Leyva, Kidspace intern; Ashfaq Ishaq, Director, and Jennifer Liu, Designer/Exhibit Coordinator, International Child Art Foundation; Jennifer Gelfand, Education and Outreach Coordinator, New York University's Child Study Center; Jessica Elsas, The Gottesman Libraries, Teachers College; and Claudia Letko, Iraqi Children's Art Exchange Project. Special thanks to the installation crew at Williams College Museum of Art for framing the works on exhibit, and to the staff of MASS MoCA for promoting, designing, and installing the exhibition.

*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 Massachusetts Cultural Council (a state agency); James and Robert Hardman Fund for North Adams of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation; Ruth E. Proud Charitable Trust; and the Brownrigg Charitable Trust in memory of Lynn Latman.

## Credits

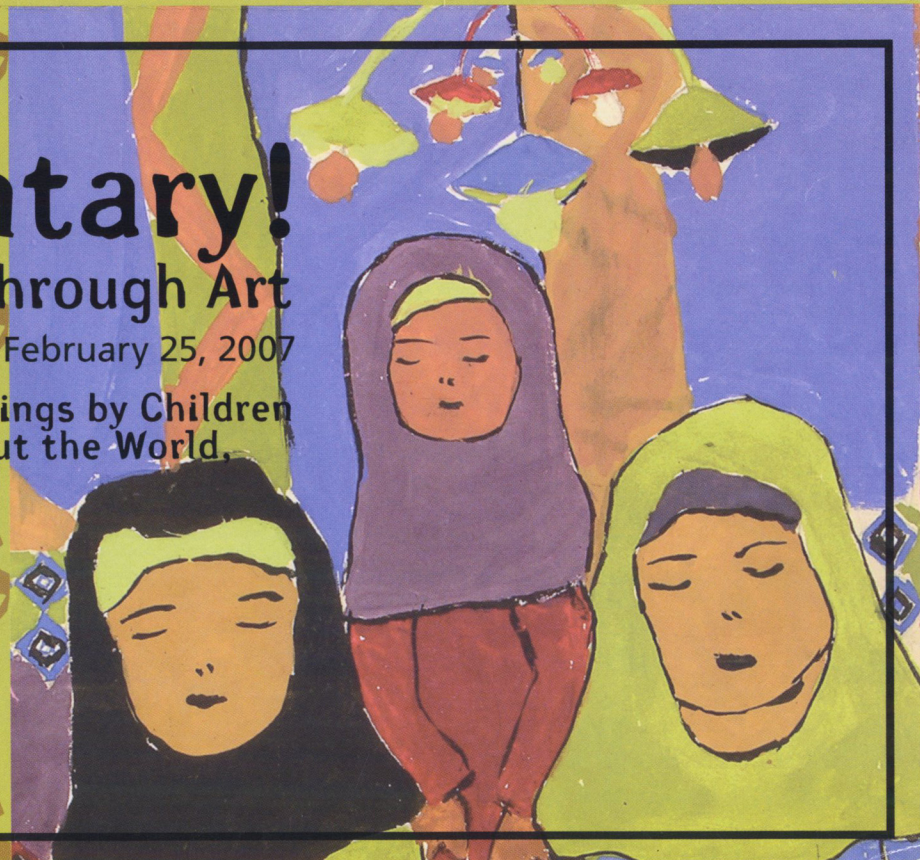
Kidspace at MASS MoCA presents:

# It's Elementary!

## Empowering Youth Through Art

October 12, 2006 – February 25, 2007

Featuring Paintings by Children  
From Throughout the World,  
1950 – 2006



# Exhibition Overview

The Fall 2006 Kidspace at MASS MoCA exhibition—*It's Elementary!*—offers a look at how children (ages 6–17) from around the globe make visual their enjoyment of, and concerns for, the world in which they live. *Kidspace* brings together historic and contemporary artwork of young students from many nations, marking the first time that the gallery will feature a totally youth-made art exhibition with historical components (some artwork dates back 50 years).

The themes found in the young artists' imagery will lead visitors of all ages to increased consideration of young people's thoughts and feelings, as well as their modes of artistic expression. Themes represented in the exhibition range from the interests of the individual to community and global concerns including **People, Places, and Experiences**.

This exhibition was organized in collaboration with the Art and Art Education Department, Teachers College Columbia University, and features over 50 works of art drawn from the following collections of children's art:

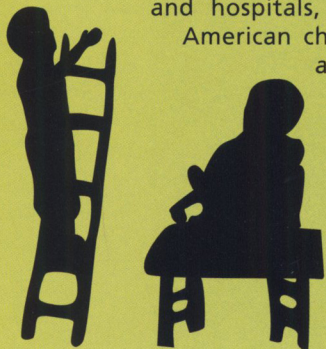
**Teachers College – Edwin Ziegfeld Collection** – works by teenagers post-World War II from: Morocco, Japan, South Africa, Trinidad, Luxemburg, Egypt, The Netherlands, Canada, Austria, Scotland, the U.S.S.R., Germany, and the U.S.A.

**Teachers College – Angiola Churchill Collection** – paintings (1950-1960s) from Japan and the U.S.A.

**International Child Art Foundation** – contemporary lithograph reproductions by children 8–15 years old from: United Arab Emirates, U.S.A., Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Gambia, and Egypt.

**New York University Child Study Center** – contemporary works made by children 11–17 years old from New York in response to 9/11.

**Iraqi Child Art Exchange** – contemporary works made by children 8–12 years old in Iraqi refugee camps and hospitals, along with drawings made by American children sent to the Iraqi children, and photographs.



## About Kidspace at MASS MoCA



Kidspace opened in January 2000 as a collaborative project of the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, Williams College Museum of Art, and MASS MoCA. It 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, as well as Stamford, Vermont. 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. Admission to Kidspace is free. Public art classes and special workshops are offered during school breaks, 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. Also, check out the Kidspace web site at:

[www.massmoca.org/Kidspace](http://www.massmoca.org/Kidspace).

## *More than Meets the Eye: A Look at Children's Art*

Dr. Judith M. Burton, Professor,  
Art and Art Education Department,  
Teachers College Columbia University

*Thinking through art makes the world a meaningful place  
and helps us to know and understand each other.*

Children throughout the world make art. They make patterns in sand, model in clay or mud, and construct with twigs, string, and any scraps that may come to hand. They also make paintings and drawings that offer us a window on their world. If children are supported in their artistic endeavors, and if teachers and parents become partners to this end, artistic sensibilities are kept alive. As we see in the paintings in this lovely exhibition, the practice of visual arts offers us a privileged window on children's worlds. Through this window we see how and what they observe, investigate, and imagine.

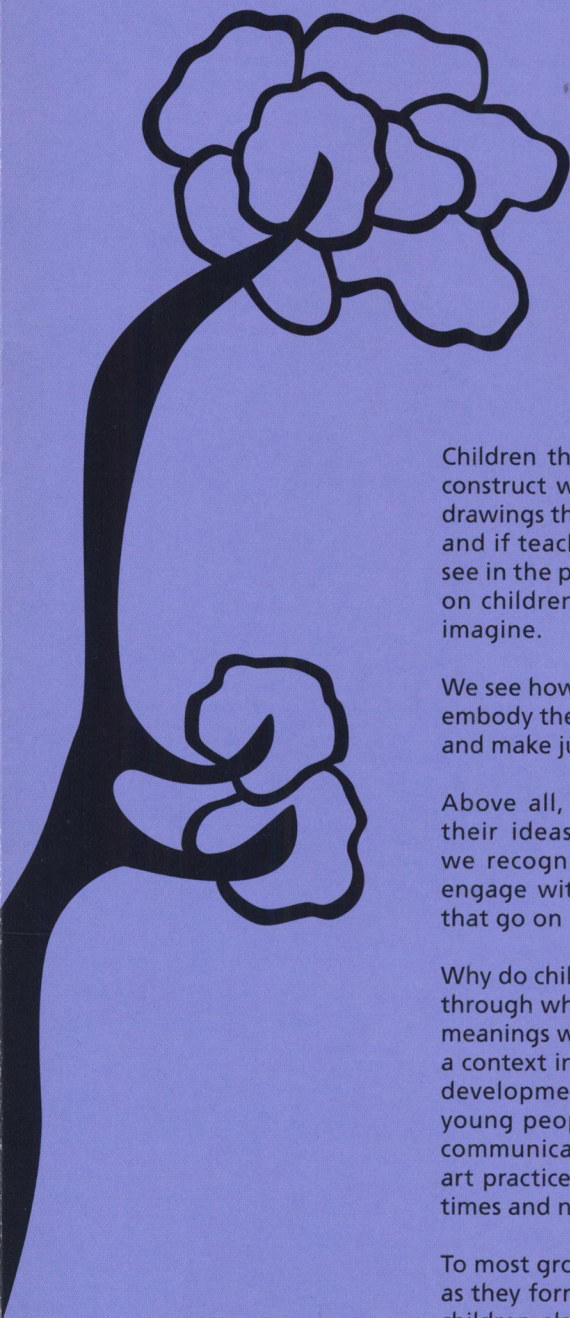
We see how children use paint in so many different ways to invent forms and create compositions that embody their hopes, dreams and fears. We see, too, how they think and feel and how they form ideas and make judgments.

Above all, we admire the way that children capture the expansiveness of life, the bravery of their ideas and the sheer intelligence of their imaginations. As spectators to children's art, we recognize that they depict the "livingness" of their subjects. They invite us into their art to engage with their ideas about relationships and work, about important places and the activities that go on in them, and about the worlds they create through their own imaginations.

Why do children create art and do so the world over? Art practice is one of the few educational arenas through which children can make the world of experience meaningful for themselves and share those meanings with others. Making art integrates the way children think, feel, and perceive; it offers them a context in which to explore, test ideas, and make their own courageous and complex journeys of development. Art-making is not simply for the talented few, but central to the development of all young people; it offers them a language through which to reach out to others, to construct and communicate their ideas, and participate knowledgeably in their culture. With thoughtful teaching, art practice opens young people's minds to the life styles, values, and beliefs of people from other times and nations.

To most grown-ups the many and brave ways in which children open themselves to their imaginations as they form their ideas and thoughts may be what we admire most. But as we see in this exhibition, children also speak to each other across time and place, and do so eloquently. Many of these works were made in countries other than the U.S.A., and many were made over half a century ago. Here we see how the language of art and the shared sensibilities of childhood merge and transcend national boundaries offering insights into the human dimension of life. Would that the grown-up world could retain the depth of children's sensibilities to human life and the language through which to engage thoughtfully with each other! The lesson to be learned from this exhibition, perhaps, is that we need to redouble our efforts to support the practice of art-making for all children everywhere in the world and throughout all their years of schooling.

Judith M. Burton



## About The Collections

### Teachers College Columbia University, New York

The Ziegfeld Collection of International Artwork of Adolescents from the 1950s

[www.tc-library.org/ArtCollection.asp](http://www.tc-library.org/ArtCollection.asp)



#### Friends of Mine

Toshiko Katsumata, girl, age 13  
Isuzan, Japan, 1957

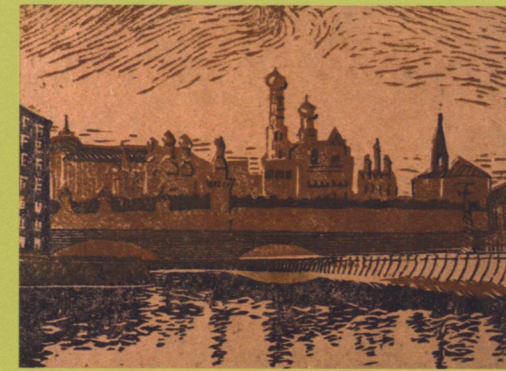
Watercolor on paper

Student comment: "They are all my classmates. I tried to catch their personalities."



#### The Beggar

Salah, boy, age 17  
Morocco, c. 1950  
Tempera



#### View at the Kremlin from the Ustinski Bridges

Walijew A., boy, age 17  
Moscow, U.S.S.R., 1957  
Lithograph



#### Zulu Kraal

Elijah Zwane, boy, age 15  
Pretoria, South Africa, c.1950

Poster color paint on paper  
Comment: *Zulu Kraal is a traditional form of architecture found in South Africa comprised of mud brick walls and grass dome roofs.*

### About the Ziegfeld Collection

The collection consists of 361 paintings, drawings, prints, and collages made by young people ages 10 to 18 years, representing 32 countries of the world, some of which, like the U.S.S.R., now exist under new names. The collection was assembled by Professor Edwin Ziegfeld, then Chair of Art and Education at Teachers College Columbia University. At the time, Ziegfeld was also the President of the International Society for Art Education (INSEA), an organization he helped found in 1954 under the auspices of the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations. These were the post-WWII years, when the promotion of peace and international cooperation through the arts stimulated a new interest in paintings and drawings made by children. It was believed that art was a language that transcended national boundaries and a powerful force in the development of understanding and good will. In 1957, Ziegfeld dedicated the second General Assembly of INSEA to Art Education for Adolescents and arranged an international exhibition of adolescent artworks, first shown at the High Museum in the Hague, the Netherlands. Following this show, the collection traveled to the United States to colleges and other venues, until it made its home at Teachers College.

~ Taken from Ziegfeld Catalogue by Judith M. Burton

### Teachers College Columbia University, New York

The Angiola Churchill Collection of  
International Children's Art from  
the 1950s - 1960s



#### Salvatore Battaglia

James Davis, boy, age 10  
Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A., c. 1950-1960  
In the Chicago American Fair  
Tempera

### About Angiola Churchill and her collection of children's art

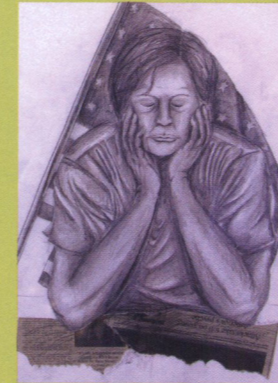
Angiola Churchill started her artistic career as a painter, and developed through cubism but left it behind in the early 1970s to move onto the use of natural forms and installation sculpture. Churchill is Professor Emerita at New York University, where she was head of the Department of Art and Art Professions for twelve years. Presently she is director of the New York University's Studio Arts Masters Program in Venice, which she founded thirty years ago. She is also Adjunct Professor at Teachers College Columbia University. Churchill has written extensively on teaching art to children, and recently donated her collection of international children's artwork from the 1950s and '60s to Teachers College.

~ Taken from tenri.org

### New York University Child Study Center, New York

Children's Art of 9/11

[www.TheDayOurWorldChanged.org](http://www.TheDayOurWorldChanged.org)



#### American Reading the Paper

Paula Brady, girl, age 17  
New York, U.S.A., 2002  
Pencil on paper, newspaper  
Student comment: "I watched my mom reading the paper, and even though she was not born in the U.S., she became intensely patriotic and saddened. I decided to explain what she was feeling through primary sources."

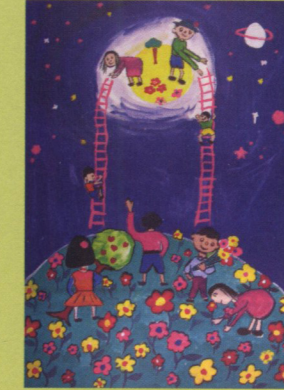
### About New York University Child Study Center 9/11 project

New York University Child Study Center and the Museum of the City of New York came together to pay tribute to children's artistic responses to September 11th with the exhibition *The Day Our World Changed: Children's Art of 9/11*. This juried exhibition contained 83 pieces of artwork—selected from a pool of hundreds—created by young people ranging from five to eighteen years of age. The artwork, at once troubling and touching, reflects the children's memories of the September tragedy and the fear, sadness, anger and hope they felt. A beautiful book was published under the same title.

~ Taken from the book jacket

### International Child Art Foundation, Washington D.C.

[www.icaf.org](http://www.icaf.org)



#### Working Together

Sherry Atef Georgy, girl, age 12  
Egypt, 1999

Lithograph reproduction

Teacher comment: "Sherry calls for help from the moon. The people planting trees and flowers display her hopeful desire for community spaces to be shared."

### About the International Child Art Foundation

The history of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) begins in the mid-1980s with the proposal of a very honest and simple idea: to create an organization that would actively nurture, sustain and promote the artistic promise and creativity of children around the world. ICAF's founder, Ashfaq Ishaq, an educator (and former award-winning child artist), believed the time was right for such an effort. In addition to programs designed to actively engage children in the creation of original artwork worldwide, Dr. Ishaq envisioned an international children's art festival, to be held, like the Olympic games, in a host city. Schools in every country would participate, and creative children, along with their parents and teachers, would be invited to attend the festival's exhibitions, creativity workshops, seminars and ceremonies. The festivals could be a strong source of encouragement and pride for each child, and he believed that through the universal language of art, understanding and cooperation could be fostered among all children, the future leaders of our world.

~ Taken from ICAF website

### Iraqi Children's Art Exchange Project, Northampton, Massachusetts

Contemporary Art from Iraq  
and the U.S. [www.hge.net/~lefkoev/](http://www.hge.net/~lefkoev/)



photo by Claudia Lefko



### About Claudia Lefko and the Iraqi Children's Art Exchange Project

In 2001 and 2004, The Northampton Committee to Lift the Sanctions on Iraq organized an art project, inviting children in the community to make pictures and paintings with the intention of sending them to children in Iraq. Claudia Lefko, early childhood educator and activist, joined a humanitarian delegation and traveled to Iraqi hospitals and refugee camps, bringing with her more than 400 pictures along with art supplies: crayons, markers, paint, and paper for the Iraqi children. Each American child who donated a picture received a copy of an Iraqi child's drawing, and some children got a photo of the Iraqi child holding the picture sent to them by the American child. At her makeshift art studios in Iraqi hospitals and among the rubble in the refugee camps, Claudia was able to help children and adults temporarily put aside their worries.