

Bringing Art to Life

THE
art
CONNECTION

No. 26, Spring/Summer 2011

5,000 Reasons to Celebrate!

Fifteen years, 303 recipient agencies, 316 donating artists and 5,000 works of art... and still counting! These are not just numbers. They represent an amazing amount of caring, commitment, passion, dedication, hard work and diligence. They are a measure of and testimony to all the people that have helped make The Art Connection a success.

“They added warmth to the rooms they were placed in, and most importantly, they added smiles to the faces of the folks looking at them.”

I first became aware of the Art Connection as an employee of a recipient agency. I saw first hand how the art on the walls complimented the services we provided. They added warmth to the rooms they were placed in, and most importantly, they added smiles to the faces of the folks looking at them. My agency is proud to be part of The Art Connection's journey to placing 5,000 pieces of art.

The Art Connection is thrilled to announce that we have placed our 5,000th piece of artwork at United Residents in Academy Homes II (URIAH). This housing development for low-income families includes 236 beautiful new town homes and a very popular and well-utilized community building on Washington Street in Roxbury.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our 5,000th placement in the New Academy Homes II Community Building on May 19 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

We are a living, breathing, thriving organization that exists because of visionaries, artists, donors, staff, board members, recipient agencies, and dreamers! Thanks and gratitude to all.

- Michael Bacon, Board Chair

P.S. Someone needs to say it: 5,000 placed artworks...woo hoo!!

Read on to see what a few members of The Art Connection board have to say about this milestone.

continued on back...



Edie Bowers, "Falling into Place 5," oil stick on paper, selected by United Residents in Academy Homes II (URIAH) in Roxbury.

THE MASTHEAD features "Untitled" by Reba Stewart. A donation by the Genevieve McMillan-Reba Stewart Foundation, this acrylic seascape was selected by Elder Service Plan in Winthrop, a non-profit that offers transitional care after hospitalization and specialized care to those with dementia.

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The Art Connection is a nonprofit organization that expands public access to visual art by placing the work of donor artists and collectors on the walls of community service organizations. Since its inception in 1995, this unique gifting program has supported over 300 agencies in their personal selection of over 5,000 pieces by more than 315 artists and collectors. Within these healing environments, the original works of art provide welcome opportunities for reflection, inspiration, comfort, and hope. Copyright © 2011 by The Art Connection, Inc. We welcome your contributions and comments.

This program is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events.



Demonstrating Diversity in its Many Forms!

I have had the privilege of working at The Art Connection for six months now, and, in that time, have focused on our need to diversify. Diversity is about different perspectives and reaching out to varied constituencies. It can be about ethnicities, generations, or works of art. At a recent meeting of one of our Art Connection committees, it struck me that our group spanned three generations – our founder at 88, the Executive Director and other committee members in their mid-50's, and new recruits in their 20's – and yet we all respond to the mission of The Art Connection. What a testament to the wide appeal of our organization and the essence of our work to make art accessible to a diverse range of people that such a group can come together to work toward a common goal. Our diversity is not only reflected in our committees but in our increasingly diverse board, the diversity of our artists, and the diverse media with which they work.

The photo above shows one of the recently donated paintings on display at the Volunteers Lawyers Project. Sheila Hubbard, the Executive Director, couldn't have been more delighted at the variety of art VLP's selection committee chose during the placement visit. Cora Roth's artwork shown is just one work from our many generous donating artists who demonstrate a diverse range of media and sensibilities. The art's audience includes staff and volunteers providing pro bono services, as well as their clients. A non-English speaking client had the pleasure of meeting one of our artists – her smiles during the encounter with that artist whose work she had admired that day said as much as any language ever could.



Susan Collings (left) with Sheila Hubbard at a reception in March at Volunteer Lawyers Project, pictured in front of "Cascade" donated by Cora Roth.

I am so proud to be part of this diverse group, especially as we celebrate what The Art Connection has thrived at all along – 15 years of bringing art to life! In addition to the 5,000 placements made by The Art Connection in Boston, we are now in the wonderful position of being able to encourage the expansion of programs like The Art Connection around the country through the debut of the Fay Slover Fund at The Boston Foundation. This fund will allow us to help diverse groups in other communities to be able to start their own program of placing original art in nonprofit settings. The Art Connection in Boston is not only inspiring its own constituents, but it is now inspiring those in other cities as well. We are so excited to move forward with this enriching work and continue to rely on your support to help make this happen. Thank you for sharing in our momentous milestone, contributing to us getting this far, and helping us as we aspire to place another 5,000 works in the years to come.

- Susan Collings, Executive Director



Thank You, Sarah! Members of the Board and staff raise their glasses in honor of Program Coordinator Sarah Shallbetter (center), who recently celebrated her 10th year with The Art Connection.

Art Eases African Communities' Transition to New England

I feel great that the Somali Development Center was given a chance to own some truly beautiful art thanks to The Art Connection. Facilitating this 'artist-to-general-public' art donation is such a great idea. I cannot believe the generosity of all the artists. We truly appreciate the hard work Sarah Berry of The Art Connection put in, patiently take us through the process of choosing the diverse works and help us plan which works would go where. We got some wonderful works - from paintings, to photographs, and drawings, and we're all really looking forward to welcoming our clients into a prettier, more cheerful and colorful environment!

- Priyanka Sanikop, Health Programs Coordinator



Somali Development Center selection committee on April 1st.



Aviva Bell, "Lean On Me (Somerville, MA)," photograph, selected by Somali Development Center.

The Somali Development Center (SDC) serves Somalis and other African communities in Boston. Nearly 5,000 Somali refugees have arrived in the Greater Boston area community since 1992. SDC facilitates their clients' access to basic resources and information, as well as providing them with skill and language training necessary to be self-sufficient - including literacy training, legal assistance, youth programs, and job search assistance. In April, the SDC selected 20 works by 18 artists, which will hang in the center's reception area, main hallway, and classroom.

Recent Art Selections . . .

Amy McGregor-Radin, "Aerodynamics," white line woodcut, selected by Spectrum Health Systems' Women & Children's Center in Westborough, a program providing substance abuse services to pregnant and post-partum women.



Karen Ann Victoria O'Brien (KAVO Studio), "Parrot Tulips Red & Yellow on Turquoise," acrylic on canvas, selected by Massasoit Community College in Brockton.



Jeannine Cook, "Lambent Gifts," watercolor, selected by Kit Clark Senior Services, a community center in Dorchester that provides services for older adults to promote healthy aging.



Lisa L. Sears, "Maine Summer," colored pencil and graphite on paper, selected by Alliance House, a residential program in Stoneham for male youth between the ages of 13 and 18.

...cover story continued

“Placing our 5,000th work of art is so significant because it shows the vitality of our mission and the dedication of staff, board members, and volunteers over the years to make the donating and receiving of art by non-profit social service organizations happen. It is a testament to the generosity and commitment by the donating artists and collectors and the eagerness of the agencies to bring the power of original art into their healing environments.” - Prilla Smith Brackett, donating artist and board member

“This means that there are 5,000 reasons for The Art Connection to exist— a testimony to and demonstration of its significance and reach.”

- Susan R. Makin, donating artist and board member



Faith Hyde, “Elegant,” mixed media on paper, selected by United Residents in Academy Homes II (URLAH) in Roxbury.

Work by New Art Donors!



Ginny Zanger, “Glacial Sea,” watercolor monotype, selected by Elder Service Plan at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center in Winthrop.



Amanda Kay Wallace, “Ozone,” mixed media, placed at The Neville Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Cambridge.



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Support The Art Connection!

**Find out ways to get involved at:
www.theartconnection.org**

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