



March is bringing thoughts of spring and lots of excitement at the Alma Community Art Center. March is Youth Art Month and, for a second year, the Alma Community Art Center is proud to host a countywide exhibition in the Wassenaar Art Gallery of youth artwork from many of our area schools.

What is Youth Art Month, you ask? Youth Art Month (YAM) is an annual observance each March to emphasize the value of art and art education for all children and to encourage public support for quality school art programs. Established in 1961, YAM provides a forum for acknowledging skills that are not possible in other subjects. The Council for Art Education (CAE), a sponsor of Youth Art Month, adopted the national theme, Start with Art, Learn for Life. Art Education develops self-esteem, appreciation of the work of others, self-expression, cooperation with others, and critical thinking skills. All of these skills are vital to the success of our future leaders, our children. "Learning through the arts promotes the idea that there is more than one solution to a problem; more than one answer to a question..."

Youth Art Months Purposes Are:

1. To direct attention to the value of art education which develops divergent and critical thinking; multicultural awareness; and technical, communication, and expressive skills.
2. To increase community, business and governmental support for art education.

3. To recognize that art is a necessity for the full development of a better quality of life for all people.
4. To expand art programs in schools and stimulate new ones.
5. To increase community understanding and interest in art and art education through involvement in art exhibits, workshops, and other creative venues.
6. To provide additional opportunities for individuals of all ages to participate in creative art learning.
7. To encourage commitment to the arts by students, community organizations, and individuals everywhere.
8. To recognize art education as a viable component in the total education curricula that develops citizens of a global society.

Please take the opportunity to support and celebrate area youth artists by stopping by the Alma Community Art Center to take in this wonderful exhibit. We are still located at 107 E. Superior Street and our doors are open Wednesday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

April in our Gallery will bring a unique, active, progressive exhibition. The 2nd Annual Gratiot Downtown Art Expo, the Community Banner Project, will bring in the county-wide youth and adult artists of the winning banner designs to paint their banners. Watch for the basic sketched banner designs to light up with color and form as our talented community members bring their creative visions to life filling our Gallery walls.

New classes are starting for the month of March. After-school classes for youth will be increased to three times each week and will include acrylics, water color, drawing, and creative journaling. Class offerings for 16 and older will include water color techniques, hand beading on felt, pastel techniques, and sterling silver ring making. For more detailed information on classes and workshops visit our website at www.alma-cac.org, or call 989-463-8366.