CREATIVITY EXPLORED
WHERE ART CHANGES LIVES

FY2012
Creativity Explored
Annual Report
**OUR MISSION**

Creativity Explored advances the value and diversity of artistic expression. We provide artists with developmental disabilities the means to create, exhibit, and sell their art in our studios and gallery, and around the world.

Above: *Structure of a Fungi* by Thanh My Diep was featured in CE’s on-site exhibition, *Structure*, in August 2011

Front cover: *House, Car, Tree, Sun, Cloud* by James Miles
Dear Friends,

Isn’t it interesting how reaching a milestone causes you to think about the past? We’re celebrating our 30th anniversary next year and have been reflecting on all we’ve achieved in three decades. This past year was another remarkable one in so many ways. In fact, several of our accomplishments might someday be regarded as milestones as our organization continues to evolve. We have learned a common thread in our continued success is that we’re always creating.

We’re creating opportunities for Creativity Explored studio artists to experience art making using new media and techniques, to inspire and be inspired by other professional artists, and to increase their earnings from the sale of their work.

We’re creating visibility by showing these artists’ work in a variety of ways—from museum exhibitions to licensing artwork for use on products—so more people can experience, understand, and appreciate their creative talents. This year, art sales were the highest ever and payments to studio artists continued to grow, increasing another 14% from last fiscal year.

We’re creating leadership to extend our reach into communities throughout the world. At our international Art & Disability Conference in September 2011, we were able to share our successes with long-established organizations, as well as organizations that opened their doors less than a year ago. The conference provided an opportunity for us to discuss best practices, challenges, and emerging trends in the field with leaders from 24 organizations.

We’re creating sustainability to ensure we continue supporting adults with developmental disabilities in their pursuit to become professional artists. Our success this past year is thanks to the contributions of thousands of people in our community like you. Many of you purchased art for your home or business, making it possible for studio artists to realize income from their work. An equal number of you encouraged friends to visit the gallery. Dozens of people volunteered their time in the studio or at openings; others served on our Board of Directors to guide the organization into a solid future. And many of you became donors or renewed your support this year, providing us the means to accomplish so much.

Together, we are creating change in people’s lives.

Sara Davis
Board President

Amy Taub
Executive Director
Creating Opportunities

With more young people and individuals with autism entering our programs, the needs and interests of our artists have changed since Creativity Explored was founded almost 30 years ago. One of our primary goals is to provide art making and art education opportunities that are responsive to individual artists’ abilities, cultures, preferences, and interests.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Artist payments from the sale and licensing of their artwork increased 14% from FY11
- Hosted three guest artist workshops for artists to learn techniques not typically offered in our studios: reflecting on identity through mask making, creating hats from original art, and exploring sound
- Re-implemented our animation program, giving artists opportunities to use computers and video to create art
- Launched “Friday Art Talks,” weekly critique sessions during which studio artists discuss personal interpretations of artworks

Clockwise from left: Studio Artists Ricardo Estella, Eva Jun, Merna Lum, and Camille Holvoet wearing hats made by Guest Artist Victor Molina using their original artworks, Visual Arts Instructor Miranda Putman leading “Friday Art Talks,” Studio Artist Thomas Pringle working on an animation project with Visual Arts Instructor Grace Rosario Perkins

When you’ve made a piece of art, you’re in for a real treat.

Andrew Bixler
Studio Artist
Creating Visibility

Creativity Explored supports adults with developmental disabilities in their quest to become working artists and earn income from their work. A key component of making this possible is improving public perceptions about the creative talents of people with developmental disabilities. To accomplish this, we promote our artists’ work to a broad audience, including the general public and the contemporary art world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Six on-site exhibitions, including one artist-curated
- Art included in 14 off-site exhibitions: 11 local, two national, and one international
- Participated in our first art fair, ArtPadSF
- Works by more than 50 artists were purchased by 11 residential and commercial art services partners
- Four licensees used 19 artists’ works on 21 products
- Works by nine CE artists exhibited in Create at UC Berkeley Art Museum are touring the country; the museum purchased works for their permanent collection: our first museum acquisition!
- Voted “Best Art Gallery” in 7x7’s Reader’s Choice

It also makes me feel like I have a voice that needs to be heard.

Thanh My Diep
Studio Artist

Clockwise from left: Work by Studio Artist Yah Kakabutra on display at Cisco Home (photo by Tom Seawell), Studio Artist James Miles and Michael Recchiuti at the launch of Recchiuti Confections’ chocolate truffle “Bikes” series adorned with Miles’ work, Studio Artist Thanh My Diep viewing an animation project at ArtPadSF
Creating Leadership

Since its inception almost 30 years ago, Creativity Explored’s innovative and respected programs, structure, and culture have served as a model in our field. We consistently receive requests to share information with new and existing art and disability organizations. Operating with a spirit of openness and transparency, we recognize that collaboration will create new and exciting opportunities for artists with developmental disabilities worldwide.

Highlight

In September 2011, CE hosted the first international conference for art and disability organizations. Leaders from 24 organizations based in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and Scotland attended. After two days of observation at three Bay Area art centers, conference attendees engaged in a full weekend of intense discussion. Participants graciously shared their best (and worst!) practices on a variety of topics, including: program design, promoting artists in the contemporary art world, income diversification, selling and licensing artwork, and program evaluation. We had some lively discussions and healthy disagreements, and began a dialogue that will continue for many years.

Clockwise from left: Leaders from art and disability organizations throughout the world during a session at CE’s conference, They Are Full of Holy Brilliant Thoughts by John Patrick McKenzie, locations of organizations that attended the conference.

It was one of the best conferences I’ve ever attended. I was thrilled to be involved, and so impressed by the welcoming nature of the CE crew and their vision in instigating the conference and bringing it to life.

Jill Scheibler
Make Studio
Baltimore, MD
Creating Sustainability

Creativity Explored receives approximately 70% of its funding from the California Department of Developmental Services via the Golden Gate Regional Center. The long-term success of our organization requires diversification of revenue through increased contributed and earned income from varying sources. This will enable us to reduce the disruptive effect of our dependency on a single and volatile revenue source, as well as provide the resources to expand opportunities for our artists.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Increased the total number of donors by 66%
- Our sold out special event, Art Changes Lives 2012, raised over $108,000
- Art sales grossed $250,000, our highest to date
- Licensing royalties reached $50,000, our highest to date

Audited Financials
For the Year Ended June 30, 2012

We ended the year with a small deficit of about $10,000 resulting from a capacity building database project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE: $1,944,805</th>
<th>EXPENSES: $1,956,700</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants 6%</td>
<td>Fundraising 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Sales &amp; Licensing* 8%</td>
<td>Management &amp; General 16%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions** 9%</td>
<td>Programs 75%</td>
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<td>Donated Services 4%</td>
<td>Note: Does not equal 100% due to rounding</td>
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<td>Other &lt;1%</td>
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* Net after artist payments and supplies  
** Net after event expenses

Studio Artist Payments, FY09-FY12

Clockwise from left: Studio Artist Anne Slater, Shoes on Fire by Camille Holvoet from our Fabulous exhibition in June 2012, art patron browsing during our Hands On Clay exhibition in October 2011, Studio Artist Pablo Calderon with a family member at his solo show in January 2012, Digital Blue by Hung Kei Shiu was used by CB2 on a pillow in their spring 2012 collection.
This past year, 127 artists with developmental disabilities created art in our studios. Many studio artists experience additional disabilities such as mental illness, emotional disturbances, and/or physical disabilities. Ages ranged from 22 to 82. The age of Creativity Explored artists has skewed younger in the last few years (24% are under 30), with an increasingly higher percentage of individuals on the autism spectrum.
Studio Artists

I want to speak for myself through my art. I never made art before coming to Creativity Explored. Now I work at home too. Every day.

I make art about the Philippines 'cause I grew up there. I was born there. I try to share my heritage with other people, and why I'm here to do art. I want them to know it.

Your art doesn't have to be perfect all the time. I like the hard ones, the difficult lines. I make sure I have space for everything I need. If people are not willing to see what you express, how do they know, if you are not telling them?
Board Members

Creativity Explored gratefully acknowledges the members of our Board of Directors for their dedication, commitment, and support of the artists working in our studios.

To me, Creativity Explored is all about the joyful creation of art and the celebration of self expression in all of us. You simply can’t experience Creativity Explored without becoming inspired to give back to this extraordinary community in some way. Serving on the board was an honor and gave me the opportunity to work with other passionate people committed to the sustainability of this magical organization.

LYNNE BLAIR
BOARD MEMBER

Portrait artists from left to right: Gerald Wiggins, Sara O’Sullivan, Ka Wai Shiu, Thomas Pringle, Quintin Rodriguez, Quintin Rodriguez, Moses Brown, Steven Liu, Yang “Buurin” Yu-Zhen, Daniel Green, James Miles, Michael Bernard Loggins, Nubia Ortega, Steven Geeter, Alan Ku, Vincent Jackson, Nita Hicks, Nita Hicks, Thomas Pringle.
After working at CE for more than 21 years, I still enjoy the excitement and buzz that envelops me when walking into the studio. The smiles and ‘hellos’ that greet me every day, the weekly birthday celebrations, and so many other interactions make life richer. The longevity of teaching staff—several instructors have been working here for over 25 years—is evidence of the commitment and love we share.

The ever-changing environment and growth of the organization have been very rewarding, as well as challenging. Every day presents a chance to learn something from someone. In fact, the question, “Who is the teacher and who is learning the most?” does not need an answer. In the studio, we are all artists.
Volunteers

We are immensely grateful to all of our volunteers. Dozens gave their time and mentoring "selves" in the studio, contributing to mutually satisfying relationships with our artists that truly change lives, while others helped in the gallery or administration to ensure that the diverse Bay Area arts scene continues to include artists with developmental disabilities. They helped us operate efficiently, shared their skills and expertise, and brought new creative energy to the studio. Thank you!

Susan Aagenaes  Amanda Galli  Lauren Marchi  Shara Soo
Zoe Ani  Vanesa Gingold  Gayle Markow  Estee Stevens
Tim Balon  Lauren Girardin  Rob Martinez  Stephanie Stillman
Melissa Barba  Lacey Goodloe  Kristine McCallister  Tyler Tornaben
Jeanne Bissmeyer  Katie Gorman  Lauren McKeon  Meredith Thomson
Ritu Bhullar  Jennifer Graham  Pamela Meskin  Alison Tuckman
Ryan Boehm  Rachel Granofsky  Victor Molina  Alexa Wan
Ben Bradley  Susan Greluck  Mike Monroe  David Price Weldy
Alice Brown  Kelly Haller  Sussana Morgan  Christine Wetzel
Brooke Brock  Rita Harowitz  Caroline Morrell  Heather Wooley
Lisa Burnham  Anna Harris  Cindy Morton  Chelsea Wong
Aaron Bustamente  Fran Harris  Avery Oatman  Debbie Gee Wong
Danae Lynn Cacciolfi  Amanda Hendricks  Rhonda Pagnozzi  Sarah Zehr
Judith Carlisle  Sarah Henry  Jeremy Papino  Gayle Markow
Michelle Champlin  Katrina Herman  Charles Papillo  Volunteer & Donor
Allison Chapas  Matt Hines  Avery Oatman  Volunteer & Donor
Jeanette Cling  Samantha Hovey  Rhonda Pagnozzi  Volunteer & Donor
Stephanie Clowdus  Katy Howes  Ava Oatman  Volunteer & Donor
Valerie Coleman  Maddy Isackson  Mandy Oatman  Volunteer & Donor
Alden Conant  Julie Junonville  Julie Junonville  Volunteer & Donor
Isabel Cook  Susan Kay  Susan Kay  Volunteer & Donor
Lorena Cortes  Lindsay Kefauver  Yael Kimchie  Volunteer & Donor
Eyse de Valle  Yael Kimchie  Yael Kimchie  Volunteer & Donor
Susie Decker  Britany Kish  Britany Kish  Volunteer & Donor
Tara Donohoe  Katherine Layton  Katherine Layton  Volunteer & Donor
Emily Dubin  Jennie Lennick  Jennie Lennick  Volunteer & Donor
Mary Durell  Eun Hie Lee  Eun Hie Lee  Volunteer & Donor
Shante Eide  Lily Liang  Lily Liang  Volunteer & Donor
Mary Faria  Stephen Lopes  Stephen Lopes  Volunteer & Donor
Alex Fine  Jacqueline Lounsbury  Kathleen Low  Volunteer & Donor
Matea Fish  Michael Lownie  Michael Lownie  Volunteer & Donor
Esther Fishman  Meghan Lynne  Meghan Lynne  Volunteer & Donor
Erin Fletcher  Kitta MacMorris  Kitta MacMorris  Volunteer & Donor
Kelsey Fox  Suzanne Mailoux  Suzanne Mailoux  Volunteer & Donor
Griffin Forshee  Marc Manning  Marc Manning  Volunteer & Donor
Koari Furusawa  Marcelle Marais  Marcelle Marais  Volunteer & Donor
Robin Galante  Volunteer & Donor  Volunteer & Donor  Volunteer & Donor

I hovered near Creativity Explored for about 25 years before “landing” long enough to pour wine at openings, which whetted my own appetite... to serve more, to participate in other ways, and to belong.

I’ve found that when you mix artistic skills, light open space, and art supplies of all kinds with respect, kindness, humor, and focus... and if you understand that giving and receiving go both directions at once, you will catch a glimmer of the “gold” that is Creativity Explored.

Between artistic endeavors, I let myself smile and smile, uncensored. But sometimes I censor tears of joy and appreciation when I am overwhelmed with the beauty of the people and the art. Instead of allowing my tears to flow, I smile some more and find something useful to do.
Sisters by Thomas Pringle was selected for the Pro Arts Juried Annual 2012, which presents a survey of the best new work in the Bay Area chosen by a juror from the national arts community.
Donors

We thank the following individual, foundation, and corporate donors who contributed to Creativity Explored during FY12 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012).

$2,500+
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- Mary Pult
- Liz Ranieri
- Jane & Larry Reed
The first time I walked into Creativity Explored six years ago, I was hooked. Artist James Montgomery was sitting on the front steps. He had wristwatches up his arm and more spilling out of a pouch around his neck. He pointed to them with his wide grin, then moved aside so I could enter the gallery. I was blown away by the rooms filled with artwork and color overflowing on the walls.

I am on a mission to bring all the people I know and love to experience this unique place. What truly stands out to me is how, in the most gentle guiding way, the teachers and staff help the artists express their visions, respecting who they are and giving them room to be their amazing selves.

I wanted a place to put my heart. Little did I know how much Creativity Explored would fill mine.
When we attended our first Creativity Explored event, we expected an exploration of art, but instead found an EXPLOSION of a variety of art objects of many types and styles. But even more exciting was the joy and pride of the artists and staff. Over the past 10 years we have continued to attend events and shows, and our walls are full of works from a fine group of artists.

Congratulations to all involved that make this program possible. Keep up the great work!
I've supported Creativity Explored for many years now. After each art exhibit or curator talk, I feel increasingly amazed by the organization’s relentless ability to support a thriving community of artists with developmental disabilities. Not only have I have acquired some of my favorite pieces of art at Creativity Explored, but I have been inspired by the artists and staff who continue to make such meaningful contributions to the world.
Clockwise from left: Studio Artists Taneya Lovelace, Hung Kei Shiu, Ricardo Estella, Ann Yamasaki
Art changes lives.