



## VISUAL ARTS CURRICULAR OVERVIEW - SPRING 2023

GRADES: NS - 6TH

TEACHERS: KIMBERLY CARMODY, AMY PARK

### **Nursery 3's**

In weekly art classes nursery students continued developing their hand-eye coordination and motor skills by exploring both two and three-dimensional art materials of all kinds. For the Meadow MoCA auction students made cyanotypes. On many walks through the nature trail and the quad, students collected leaves, sticks, flowers, and rocks. The children were delighted by the magical process of laying the materials on a pre-treated piece of fabric that was then exposed by the sun, and rinsing the fabric in water to reveal ghost-like images. The children gained a clear understanding of the sequenced steps involved in the cyanotype process and shouted with excitement and joy as the cloth turned indigo during the rinsing process. 75% of the money raised from the sale of these pieces went to support guest speakers and artists at High Meadow next year, and 25% went to support People's Place.

### **Pre-Kindergarten**

In weekly art classes pre-kindergarten students continued developing their hand-eye coordination and motor skills by exploring both two and three-dimensional art materials of all kinds. The chandelier-like sculpture entitled, Treasure, that the pre-k students made for the Meadow MoCA auction highlighted many things four-year-olds love: working with clay, beading, spinning yarn, and collecting sticks! In the classroom students cleaned, carded, and spun the wool yarn that was wrapped around the top of the piece. They made dozens and dozens of terracotta beads and then strung long lengths of them on copper wire. Finally, each student chose exactly where to attach their beads to the top of a branch found while exploring the campus. 75% of the money raised from the sale of this piece went to support guest speakers and artists at High Meadow next year, and 25% went to support People's Place.

### **Kindergarten**

In weekly art classes kindergarten students continued to develop hand-eye coordination and motor skills by exploring art materials of all kinds. Students were given the opportunity to work in many different two and three-dimensional genres, within which they made choices about subject matter as well as color, shape, size, texture, and form. This spring students explored painting, collage, rubbings, printmaking and working with clay. For the Meadow MoCA auction kindergarteners made beautiful watercolor paintings of flowers. They learned how to identify shapes, textures and lines in still lives of fresh spring flowers picked from the gardens on

campus. Over time, their observation skills improved and students began experimenting with mixing colors and using different sized brushes. They were also encouraged to pay close attention to detail. Kindergarten students chose to give 75% of the money raised from the sale of their artworks to support guest speakers and artists at High Meadow next year, and 25% went to support People's Place and the Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary.

### **1st Grade**

In weekly art classes first grade students continued to develop hand-eye coordination and motor skills by exploring art materials of all kinds. Students were given the opportunity to work in many different two and three-dimensional genres, within which they made choices about subject matter as well as color, shape, size, texture, and form. This spring first graders explored drawing, painting, collage, cardboard construction, working with clay and weaving. For the Meadow MoCA auction the class made a giant weaving from discarded materials found in the art room closet, and first graders' homes. They took a deep inquiring dive into what happens to waste after it's tossed in the trash, compost, or recycling. Students mastered the under/over technique of weaving and paid close attention to color and texture as they chose which materials to add into this piece, which was woven between two smooth sticks found at the Ashokan reservoir. 75% of the funds raised by the sale of this piece went to support student scholarships at High Meadow next year, and 25% of the funds went to support the Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary.

### **2nd Grade**

In weekly art classes second grade students were given the opportunity to work in many different two and three-dimensional genres, within which they made choices about subject matter as well as color, shape, size, texture, and form. This spring students explored drawing, painting collage, mold-making and ceramics. For the Meadow MoCA auction students learned the process of mold making and casting. Inspired by the language, technology, and history of deaf people, whose culture second graders studied throughout the year, each second grader cast their hand in plaster while forming a letter in American Sign Language (ASL). The class voted on words and phrases to spell with their sculptural hands and settled on "Doggie" and "Love". Their inquiry led to the class writing a letter to Michelle Healy, the Head of School, sharing some of their learning and suggestions for making the campus more accessible to the hearing impaired. Second graders chose to give 75% of the money raised from the sale of this piece to support guest speakers and artists at High Meadow next year, and 25% went to support the Stone Ridge Library and Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary.

### **3rd Grade**

The guiding incentive for visual art classes in third grade is experimentation with two and three-dimensional materials coupled with the mastery of techniques. This spring students explored collage, drawing three-dimensionally, painting, and working with clay. For the Meadow MoCA auction students made two composite paper collages, one of a Bald Eagle and another depicting a Snowy Owl. Photographs of these birds were cut into small pieces and the students in each group received a section showing just one part of their bird. Students negotiated, compromised, voted and played Rock, Paper, Scissors to decide who would create each section. First, they learned how to draw their section of the bird much larger than the small fragment of a photograph

they worked from. Next students worked hard to mix up and paint the exact colors for each section, and finally they put their pieces together to determine next steps. They critiqued, made adjustments and decided to add paper collage into the mix and in the end created two dynamic compositions. 75% of the money raised from the sale of these pieces went to support guest speakers and artists, as well as scholarships at High Meadow; and 25% went to support the Stone Ridge Library and Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary.

#### **4th Grade**

The guiding incentive for visual art classes in fourth grade is experimentation with two and three-dimensional materials coupled with the mastery of techniques. Through trial and error students mastered skills such as drawing, painting, mixing colors, beading, collage, cardboard construction and working with clay. For the Meadow Moca auction fourth graders made clay animals that showcased their understanding of the ceramic process from start to finish. While building these animals in wet clay, students mastered blending, hollowing pieces out, and adding texture. After the bisque fire, they used underglaze to paint the pieces and then added clear glaze to create the shiny finish. After the pieces came out of the glaze firing, the class worked together, negotiated, compromised, and voted to determine how the animals would be displayed. They were ultimately divided into three sculptures. Each one depicts a dynamic vignette of animals on a beautiful piece of driftwood from the Ashokan reservoir. 75% of the money raised from the sale of these pieces went to support the student scholarship fund at High Meadow, and 25% went to support the Wayward Ranch Animal Sanctuary.

#### **5th Grade**

Teacher: Amy Park

During the last trimester of the school year, the fifth grade class continued their exploration in two and three-dimensional, foundational skills of contour line, shape, color mixing, composition, and texture. Projects included watercolor painting, creating a collaborative mandala and ceramic sculpture.

#### **Mandala for Meadow MoCA**

- Students met and witnessed visiting Artist and Tibetan Monk, Lama Tenzin Yigyen create the sand “Mandala of Compassion” at HMS in March 2023.
- As a class, students discussed Lama Tenzin’s mandala: creating an artwork with the intention of compassion; the impermanence of sand vs the (slightly more permanent) watercolor and paper.
- Students studied mandalas from 1100-1800s from across Asia.
- Fifth graders created a mandala in watercolor and pencil for Meadow MoCA Art Auction. As a class they decided upon a traditional mandala using all colors for the composition. The whole class created and painted the central design and each student painted their own personal mandala which framed it.
- In the Meadow MoCA art exhibition at Market Street Studio, the 5th Grade’s Mandala was sold and 75% of the proceeds went to Student Scholarships at HMS and 25% to People’s Place and Cancer care.
- Students used creativity and artwork as a means to give back, and to make positive

change within our community at High Meadow School and in our neighborhood.

### Ceramic Sculpture

- Students used pencil and paper to design three-dimensional sculptures of tableware and food.
- Students were introduced to and practiced handbuilding skills including slab rolling, slip and score and making texture with tools.
- Students continued the use of color design and hand/brush skills while glazing final pieces.

### 6th Grade

Teacher: Amy Park

During the last trimester of the school year, the sixth grade class continued their exploration with two long term projects in watercolor painting and ceramics. Their collaborative watercolor pieces used large strips of paper (40 inches by 5 inches) which were painted using a wet into wet technique with 3 inch brushes. Each student contributed four “big watercolor strips” which were cut into 1 inch strips and woven together.

### Watercolor Weavings

- Students studied the paper weavings of women artists, Michelle Grabner & Gego.
- Students worked collaboratively to create two 40” by 25” weavings. The weavings were framed and shown at the Meadow MoCA Art Exhibition at Market Street Studio. The artwork was sold and 75% of proceeds went to Student Scholarships at HMS and 25% went to People’s Place in Kingston, NY.
- Students used creativity and artwork as a means to give and create change within our community at High Meadow School and within our neighborhood.

### Ceramic Sculpture

- Students used pencil and paper to design three-dimensional sculptures of tableware and food.
- Students developed handbuilding skills including: slab rolling, slip and score and creating texture with tools.
- Students continued the use of color design and hand/brush skills while glazing final pieces.