

For immediate release

Contact: John Adams
johnadams@restonarts.org
703.471.9242

Youth Art Month

GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community

February 25 – March 5, 2016

Emerging Visions: Contemplating Community

March 15 – April 9, 2016

Reston, VA: Greater Reston Arts Center celebrates Youth Art Month with two exhibitions dedicated to the artistic achievements of the area's youth. The *GRACE Art* exhibition features selected works from students from nine schools participating in the Center's signature art education program, *GRACE Art*.

Emerging Visions features exceptional work from students at three local high schools, and is dedicated this year to celebrating Reston founder Robert E. Simon's vision for a New Town. Schools participating in the annual *Emerging Visions* program will work with the GRACE Education Director and their teachers to develop work that explores Mr. Simon's vision for the New Town, evolving definitions of community, and their own personal experiences as community members.

GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community

This exhibition highlights work from the long-standing GRACE Art program. Nearly 40 area schools participate in this program, in which trained classroom volunteers deliver an interactive art history lesson with materials and visuals supplied by GRACE, followed by a related hands-on art project. Selected student projects from nine participating schools will be presented at GRACE, promoting the impact of this important visual art literacy program. This year gallery visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on art activities related to each school's display throughout the exhibition, as well as enjoy light refreshments on Family Day on March 5th.

Participating schools:

Academy of Christian Education
Al Fatih Academy
Aldrin Elementary School
Armstrong Elementary School
The Boyd School: Reston
Forest Edge Elementary School
Ravensworth Elementary School
Waples Mill Elementary School
Willow Springs Elementary School

The artwork in the exhibit was inspired by twelve different portfolios presented in the schools this year, including: Frida Kahlo, Patrick Dougherty, Romare Bearden, Michelangelo, Keith Haring, Claude Monet, Joan Miro, Alexander Calder, Diego Rivera, and more!

Schools that are interested in finding out more about the *GRACE Art* program can contact the Greater Reston Arts Center at 703-471-9242 or info@restonarts.org.

GreaterRestonArtsCenter

Emerging Visions: Contemplating Community

Each year, *Emerging Visions* offers Fairfax County high school students the opportunity to work directly with GRACE's curatorial staff to create thoughtful, well-crafted artworks that will be exhibited in the gallery. This year, GRACE is dedicating its celebration of Youth Art Month to Bob Simon's vision for a New Town. Participating students are developing work that explores Mr. Simon's vision for the New Town of Reston, evolving definitions of community, or their own personal experiences as community members. Students reflect on the continuing relevance of Bob Simon's vision in today's world, examine what it means to live in that community today, or reimagine a new community for the future. In addition to being timely and appropriate within the Reston community, this theme also aligns with the 2016 theme of National Youth Art Month – The Power of Art.

Participating schools:

Herndon High School
Oakton High School
South Lakes High School

Events:

GRACE Art: Cultivating a Creative Community

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 27th, 5-7:00 pm

Family Day: Saturday, March 5th 12-3:00 pm

Both Events Free and Open to the Public

Emerging Visions: Contemplating Community

Opening Reception: Friday, March 18, 6-8pm

Free and Open to the Public

Image credits:

Ascend, Ryan Hill

Apartment Complex, Nishaad Lorengo

For more information please visit www.restonarts.org

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am – 5pm

[Twitter.com/restonarts](https://twitter.com/restonarts)

[Facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter](https://facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter)

The Greater Reston Arts Center gratefully acknowledges the leadership of its Board of Directors and the support of its sponsors, members, and patrons. GRACE programs are supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and the Reston Community Center.

