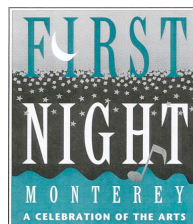


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Date: November 11, 2011

First Night ArtWorks! Exhibit to Open at the Alvarado Galley in Monterey Conference Center

First Night ArtWorks! a program of First Night Monterey, presents inspiring works by young developing artists in FN outreach workshops and from the summer 2011 First Night Art Camp.

The exhibition includes work from a number of FNM's ArtWorks projects:

"Art is the Next Peace: Connecting Communities", is a creative collaborative community project, joining professional artists, students, and civic leaders, to promote nonviolent and peaceful resolutions. Executive Director of the Arts Council for Monterey County, Paulette Lynch commented, "Over and over we find that the arts are the answer to our society's greatest challenges... This show is a wonderful example of what is possible. We are honored to play a role."

Middle and High School students using collage as a medium, explore feelings of place and home, visions and values and created these colorful dynamic works in the **Mi Vida~My Life** workshops. These life-sized collages in human shapes depict the lives of these youth in Gonzales and Greenfield, in the heart of California's farming communities

Again tapping into the innate creativity of young Greenfield artists, in the **Greenfield Valley of the Arts** project, colorful acrylic on paper artworks were created and submitted for the Viva! Greenfield music poster competition. Competition winner Sergio Sanchez's poster was a vibrant and colorful work incorporating his guitar and showing the importance of music in his life.

Art from the **FNM Summer Art Camp** includes acrylic on paper and canvas, painted silk panels, watercolor and multimedia works created by youth from Monterey, Marina, Seaside, Gonzales and Greenfield. FNM Art Camp is held in the summer and fall at the FNM Art Studio, located in the Archer Park Community Building in Monterey.

This exhibit will be at the Alvarado Gallery, in the Monterey Conference Center November 15 - January 27, 2012. An artists' reception will be held on Friday, December 9th from 5-7 pm with refreshments and music by Heartstrings Monterey. Come meet the young artists and see their images of a world without violence, music in the valley and how they see their life in Monterey County.

The Conference Center is located at #1 Portola Plaza, Monterey, in downtown Monterey. For more information contact Chalet Catlin, City of Monterey at 831.242.8743 or visit City's website www.monterey.org/museum. Contact Ellen Martin, First Night Monterey, 831.373.4778 or visit www.firstnightmonterey.org

Who: City of Monterey Colton Hall Museum and Cultural Arts Commission

Where: Monterey Conference Center #1 Portola Plaza, Monterey, CA 93940

What: First Night ArtWorks! Exhibit

When: November 15 – January 27, 2012

Reception: Art Opening Reception: Friday, December 9th, 2011 5:00 – 7:00pm

The First Night Monterey Artworks Workshops were made possible by grants from the Arts Council for Monterey County, California Arts Council, Robert & Audrey S. Talbott Foundation, Target, Harden Foundation, Nancy Buck Ramson Foundation.

First Night Monterey Mission Statement: To reveal and celebrate diversity through the First Night Monterey Celebration and the First Night ArtWorks! program, using art as a catalyst to unify the community through creativity, imagination and participation.

First Night Monterey was founded in 1992 as a private non-profit arts organization to produce the First Night Celebration and the ArtWorks! free year-round community outreach programs and arts education workshops that culminate in the landmark New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts on December 31st in historic downtown Monterey. Visit www.firstnightmonterey.org for more information or visit our Facebook page.