

79 Walker Street
New York NY 10013
T_ 212 219 04 73
F_ 212 219 05 11
artingeneral.org



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ART IN GENERAL INVITES YOUNG NEW YORKERS TO STAGE EXHIBITION

Contact

Claire Sexton
212.219.0473 x31
press@artingeneral.org



Impermanent Collections

May 9–17, 2009

Douglas Boatwright, David Brooks, Nathan Gwynne, Julia Weist, Audra Wolowiec,
curated by Christine Hou and Class 808 at M.S. 131

Opening reception Saturday, May 9, 2009 6-8 pm

Student reception Tuesday, May 12, 2009 10 AM

New York —How would a class of 12 7th and 8th graders organize an exhibition of works by vanguard artists?

From Saturday, May 9 to Sunday, May 17, the downtown, free-to-the-public arts organization Art in General answers that question and more in the exhibition *Impermanent Collections*.

The works in the exhibition were selected by Special Education students from M.S. 131, in the heart of Chinatown on Hester Street, through an online open call to artists. Works on view range from David Brooks' sculptures made of wood and industrial materials to Julia Weist's recreation of personal magnet collection and a tiny sculpture, entitled "*pocket cloud*," by Audra Wolowiec.

The exhibition is a culmination of a year-long program that began with examining how artwork is made and selected. Soon they "adopted" a tiny piece of sculpture through the Fine Art Adoption Network (www.fineartadoption.net) and the exhibition has developed into an examination of collecting through the eyes of the students and five young contemporary artists.

. **Photos:** Left: Audra Wolowiec, *pocket cloud*, 2007-2009.
Right: David Brooks, *Breathtaking Vistas of Deforestation*, 2008.

On Tuesday, May 5, the students will have a field trip to take part in the installation of the exhibition at Art in General, and on Tuesday, May 12 they will be joined by other schoolmates for a reception to see the finished product in the gallery.

The students of M.S. 131's Class 808, led by educator Christine Hou as part of Art in General's long-running education collaboration with the school have spent the year learning about curatorial studies and how a gallery is like a mind. Through a series of workshops, off-site visits, and guest lectures, the seventh- and eighth-grade Special Education students were encouraged to consider art as a way of seeing. Emphasizing the creative and revealing facets of collecting, *Impermanent Collections* considers not only the material but the conceptual nature of collections. Collecting, approached as a mode of perception, is the tool of both the curators and the artists; the featured artists were chosen for the students' curatorial 'collection' by virtue of their own emphasis on the themes and techniques of collecting.

The student curators 'collected' these works through an open call facilitated by Art in General, and used Adam Simon's *Fine Art Adoption Network* as inspiration. *FAAN*, an online network, serves "to connect artists and potential collectors" and aims "to help increase and diversify the population" of art collectors. *Impermanent Collections* takes up this same task, celebrating the diverse collector's unconscious in all of us.

About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and engages the public with their work. In 26 years the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists may exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers.

Art in General is located at 79 Walker Street, NYC, one block South of Canal Street between Lafayette and Broadway.

Subway directions: take the 6, A-C-E, N-Q-R-W, or J-M-Z subway to Canal Street.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm.

Support

Art in General's Education Program is made possible by George Mills; Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro; the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Colgate-Palmolive; Con Edison and the NYU Community Fund.

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