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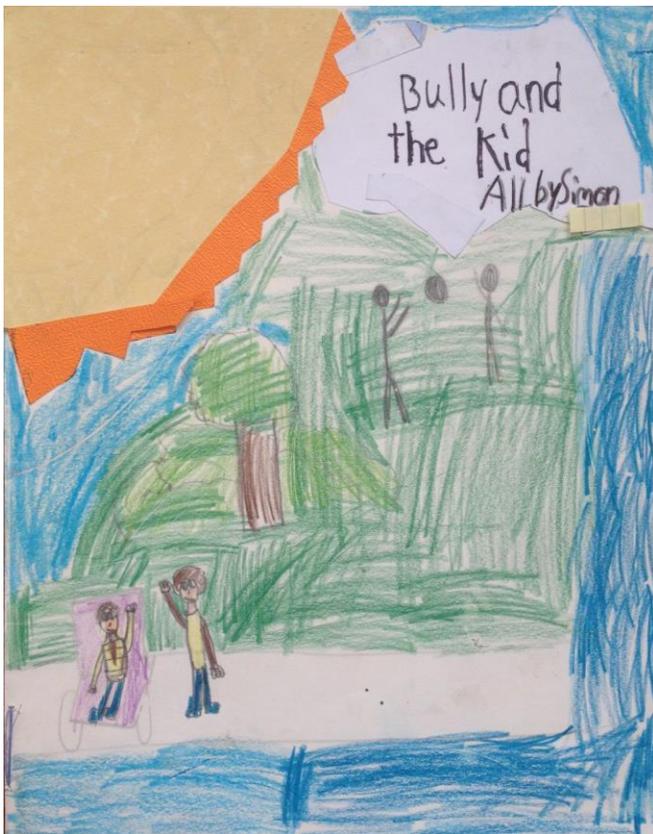


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHELDON ART GALLERIES OPENS EXHIBIT OF BOOKS MADE BY CHILDREN THAT EXPLORE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Color Wheel Connections: Handmade Books about Human Beings*, March 3 – September 9, 2017 in the AT&T Gallery of Children’s Art. An opening reception will be held on Friday, March 3 from 5 - 7 p.m. Galleries are open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center. The Sheldon Art Galleries are open Tuesdays, Noon – 8 p.m.; Wednesdays - Fridays, Noon – 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and one hour prior to Sheldon performances and during intermission. Admission is free. For more information on exhibitions, visit the galleries’ website at TheSheldon.org.



Organized by artist Jenna Bauer, founder of the Colorbridge Arts Collective, designers of socially informed visual arts education curricula, this exhibit uses the artist’s color wheel as a metaphor to encourage children to contemplate our similarities and differences as human beings.

In collaboration with their classroom teachers and Colorbridge art educators, students created thoughtful stories based on this theme, and also learned a wide variety of studio art-based illustration tactics, including drawing and collage techniques, color theory and bookbinding. This exhibit presents a range of colorful and thought-provoking books written and illustrated by students from Word of Life School, St. Cecilia School, Kennard Classical Junior Academy and a group of homeschooled children.

The color wheel contains inherent and important lessons when the relationships among hues are personified. In a color wheel, two hues may occupy territory on opposite sides of the wheel, but when they are side by side, they vibrate and dance, forming a complementary set. Likewise, two people can have differences, yet have hopes, dreams, aspirations and family connections that are very similar to one another. These commonalities become the threads that hold us together as the human race.

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This hue-to-human analogy, explored in *The Color Wheel of Tolerance* bookmaking curriculum, inspired this exhibit. The curriculum is a signature program of Colorbridge Arts Collective first drafted in August of 2014 by artist Jenna Bauer. In the Fall of 2016, Bauer and fellow artist-educators established the Colorbridge Arts Collective to bring this, and a wide variety of socially inspired arts curricula, to St. Louis schools and community groups. These programs use an engagement with literature and the visual arts to promote individuality, confidence, self-expression, problem solving and social change.

The Colorbridge Arts Collective is dedicated to developing, refining and distributing this curriculum because, they believe, understanding universalities among human beings can encourage a peaceful world and dissipate fear and violence. More information on their programs at ColorbridgeArt.com.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries' spaces on the 2nd floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, music art and history and children's art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

Financial Assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency. Support is provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Arts and Education Council.

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Image caption: *Bully and the Kid*, 2016, by Simon, colored pencil and collage on paper, 9 x 12 inches, courtesy the artist and Colorbridge Collective.