



EAST WHITTIER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

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Cubist Sculptures, Papier-Mâché Projects Highlight East Whittier Student Art Show

EAST WHITTIER – Sculptures inspired by Pablo Picasso and metal embossing influenced by Vincent van Gogh are among dozens of installations created by East Whittier City School District K-8 students that are currently on display at the Whittier Art Gallery.

East Whittier's Annual Student Art Show, which closes April 29, features a spectrum of art designed by beginning and advanced art students including collages, two-point perspectives, pastels, textile art, mobiles, graphic books, propaganda posters and examples of the papier-mâché craft known as *alebrijes*, popularized by the Mexican artist Pedro Linares.

"We want to celebrate art in all its forms, and highlight the tremendous work being created by our students through the direction of our talented art teachers," EWCSA Arts Coordinator Patty Dunn said. "Every grade level focuses on a specific content area, with our more advanced students learning the lessons of the masters, and producing works that are thought-provoking and imaginative."

The April 19 opening featured a performance by members the East Whittier Middle School string orchestra. The show continues Wednesday, April 26 through Friday, April 28 from 1 to 6 p.m. The exhibit's closing ceremony, on Saturday, April 29, from 1 to 4 p.m., will include the Granada Middle School marching band.

Granada Middle School student works were influenced by European masters such as Picasso and van Gogh, as well as photorealist collages inspired by American-born artist Chuck Close, landscape collages made of ripped up magazines, and pattern drawings known as zentangles.

"Creating art is a way for me to calm down, it helps me get through some of my more stressful classes," Granada eighth-grader Alyssa Prieto said.

East Whittier Middle School art teacher Diana Martinez introduced her students to the 3-D art known as *alebrijes*, where cardboard, Styrofoam and wire are combined with papier-mâché to create fantasy animals which reflect the artist's personality. Seventh-grader Grace Perez chose a unicorn, a dolphin and a sea turtle for her design.

"The unicorn is unique and mysterious, the dolphin is playful and active, and the sea turtle is shy," Perez said.



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Murphy Ranch Elementary students created oil pastels based on the Impressionistic *plein air* landscapes of Monet and metal embossing in the style of the van Gogh's "Yellow House" painting.

The EWCSO student art show is supported by the East Whittier Arts Foundation (EWAEF), a community-based nonprofit that works with EWCSO to increase support for the arts, providing financial resources and vocational opportunities for students.

"The East Whittier City commitment to providing art instruction and equal access for every student is greatly strengthened by our community partnerships with the EWAEF and the Whittier Art Gallery, which is a wonderful resource in our community," EWCSO Superintendent Mary Branca said. "I would like to thank our dedicated teachers, who are not just inspiring their students to create magnificent art, but also for providing their students with an important historical perspective."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

042617_East_Whittier_Art_Show1: Granada Middle School eighth-grader Alyssa Prieto exhibits her landscape collage made of ripped magazine pages, during the opening of the East Whittier City School District Annual Art Show on April 19 at Whittier Art Gallery.

042617_East_Whittier_Art_Show2: Murphy Ranch Elementary School fourth-graders Daniela Ramirez and Julia Masikan display landscape paintings influenced by Impressionist artist Claude Monet, during the opening of the East Whittier City School District Art Show on April 19.

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