

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) Graduate Students in Art Therapy  
Will Present *The Art of Connection* on December 10**

Chicago, IL— ***The Art of Connection*** showcases artwork by students graduating from the **Master of Arts in Art Therapy** program at the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**, and the people they work with at their internship sites.

As defined by the American Art Therapy Association, "art therapy is the therapeutic use of art making, within a professional relationship, by people who experience illness, trauma, or challenges in living, and by people who seek personal development. Through creating art and reflecting on the art products and processes, people can increase awareness of self and others; cope with symptoms, stress, and traumatic experiences; enhance cognitive abilities; and enjoy the life-affirming pleasures in making art."

The diversity of artwork on display in *The Art of Connection* reflects the wide range of people, places, and approaches encompassed by art therapy. As a curricular requirement of the program, each art therapy graduate student works at an internship site where the power of art making is used to help people communicate their stories. Whether the work produced provides a respite from an emotional storm, or depicts an image directly from it, the common theme that links together each of the artists represented here is the belief in growth through expression, which is fostered within a safe and supportive environment, and is also aimed at integrating internal and external experiences. Typically, artwork created in a therapeutic setting is confidential. However, the artists represented in this exhibition chose to share their work with an audience as a means of building understanding and healing.

Art Therapy students participating in *The Art of Connection* include April Abesamis, Avery Blair-Wilson, Rifi Bleichman, Amy L. Cavazos, Cassie Lynn Dobbs, Michelle Ettlinger, Katrina Funk, Joyce Garside, GraceAnn Goll, Jae Hoon Kim, Charlotte Kimlick, Terri Kuberski, Stephany Latham, Emily MacArthur, Cass Magiera, Giselle Pagani, Jeannette Perkal, Kate Pfeiffer, and Hannah Shinozaki.

Participating locations for art therapy internships include Advocate Hope Children's Hospital, Advocate Lutheran General Children's Hospital, Alexian Brothers Behavioral Health Hospital, Arlyn Day School, Chicago Community Counseling Center, Center on Halsted, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, Deborah's Place, Hephzibah Children's Association, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, Mercy Housing Lakefront, Neumann Family Services, Norwegian American

Hospital, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care, Rice Child and Family Center, and The ARK.

**The Art of Connection**

December 10, 2011–February 18, 2012

Public receptions: Thursday December 8, 7:00–8:30 p.m.  
and  
Friday December 9, 4:30–7:00 p.m.

Sullivan Galleries

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

33 South State Street, 7th floor

Chicago, IL 60603

312.629.6635

saic-exhibitions@saic.edu

saic.edu/exhibitions

Gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., and by appointment

Note: The galleries will be closed December 24–January 2

Free and open to the public

For more information on Art Therapy at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, visit [saic.edu/arttherapy](http://saic.edu/arttherapy)

About the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from around the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC has an educational philosophy built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit [saic.edu](http://saic.edu).

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