



**Katonah Museum of Art**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **Katonah Museum of Art and First Steps Little School Program Present ArteJuntos/ArtTogether Student Exhibition at the Ossining Public Library**

**June 10 – June 19, 2016, Regular library hours**  
**Opening Reception: Friday, June 10, 11:00am – 2:30pm**

**Katonah, NY:** An exhibition of artworks by students and parents, the culmination of a year-long program, **ArteJuntos/ArtTogether**, organized by the Katonah Museum of Art (Katonah, NY) and the First Steps Program (Ossining, NY) will be on view at the Ossining Public Library from **June 10 – June 19, 2016** during regular Library hours. Families and the community are invited to view the exhibition, which will open with a reception on Friday, June 10, 11:00am - 2:30pm.

The exhibition will feature artworks created by preschool students from the Little School/La Escuelita program and their parents as a result of their participation in ArteJuntos/ArtTogether, a multi-session collaboration between the Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) and local Westchester schools and community organizations. The program empowers parents of children, ages three to five, as the child's most important teacher, with the goal of supporting school readiness and parent engagement.



Parents and students from the ArteJuntos/ArtTogether program visited the Katonah Museum of Art in the spring to view the Museum's current exhibition, *The Nest*, and exhibition of *art in nature*.

Photo: Margaret Fox Photography

“Education is central to the Katonah Museum of Art's mission,” said Margaret Adasko, Education Program Manager at the Katonah Museum of Art. “Since 2005, ArteJuntos has been one of the cornerstone programs that supports the Museum's efforts to connect the arts to its surrounding communities. This nationally recognized program has had significant impact on children's learning, and parent use of cultural resources as informal learning environments to share with their families.”

Helena Vidal, a facilitator for the ArteJuntos program, added, “we are thrilled to see the impact the program has had on the children's development this year. Bridging visual literacy, art-making and STEM skills, the

curriculum has engaged students to look more closely and think critically about art and the natural world around them. Parents have also gained tools and strategies to support their families' enjoyment of Westchester County's rich cultural resources."

Understanding that learning begins at home, **ArteJuntos/ArtTogether** is a bilingual art literacy program that introduces low-income, educationally at-risk preschool children and their families to the Katonah Museum of Art as a resource for learning, discovery, and creativity. Partnerships with the First Steps/Primeros Pasos Program in Ossining, Park Early Childhood Center in Ossining, and the Family Center at Neighbor's Link in Mount Kisco, strengthen the KMA's outreach into the Westchester community.

Over the course of the academic year (2015-2016), KMA educators have worked closely with Westchester County educators to facilitate a comprehensive, age-appropriate program that uses the Museum's exhibitions as a springboard for dialogue and learning while connecting to the pre-school curriculum. Approximately 60 families from the Little School participated in the program, which ran from October through May, and included two parent sessions, eight classroom sessions, and two visits to the Museum.

Utilizing the Museum's exhibitions to develop the curriculum, ArteJuntos supports children's emergent literacy, observation skills, expressive and receptive language, and critical thinking skills. Through inquiry-based discussions using original works of art and picture book illustrations, and related art-making activities, children develop the ability to identify shapes, colors, and objects, expand their vocabularies, and develop their fine motor skills. With the aim of empowering parents to become resourceful facilitators of their children's learning, the program's innovative design includes parents as participants who work side by side with their children in the classroom and at the Museum.

Throughout the year, children and their families were introduced to the work of contemporary artists inspired by nature and their environment. In response to the Museum's fall exhibition, *SupraEnvironmental*, children and their parents used their senses to investigate nature and works of art, developed new vocabulary to describe the colors, shapes and textures of natural and man-made materials, and transformed those materials into hanging works of art. The focus on nature and the five senses continued into the spring with the exhibition *The Nest, and exhibition of art in nature* (through June 19 at the Katonah Museum). The families became birdwatchers, using binoculars and journals to observe birds and nests at school, at home, and at the museum. Inspired by the exhibition, children and parents constructed nests with carefully selected materials, and collaged bird silhouettes similar to those found in *Tree of Life* (2016,) a large-scale mural by James Prosek featured in the exhibition. As the year draws to a close, students, families, and teachers have gained a greater understanding of the role artists can play in calling attention to the fragile beauty of nature and our responsibility to care for it.

## **SUPPORT:**



Support for ArteJuntos/ArtTogether is generously provided by the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation and Gabelli Funds.

The Katonah Museum of Art is supported in part by Arts Westchester with support by the Westchester County Government, The New York State Council on the Arts with support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

## **ABOUT THE KATONAH MUSEUM OF ART:**

Committed to presenting exceptional art from all cultures and time periods through innovative exhibition and education programs, the Katonah Museum of Art promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts for diverse audiences. The founders' decision to be a non-collecting institution resulted in a dynamic and

flexible exhibition program, which remains one of the most distinctive features of the KMA. The KMA offers lectures, films, workshops, concerts and other events for a general audience; and presents innovative and substantive programs for over 100 member schools. The Learning Center is the only interactive space in Westchester County where children can come on a daily basis to explore and create art.

### **ABOUT THE FIRST STEPS PROGRAM:**

The First Steps Program is an early literacy program for the Ossining School District Community. The goal of First Steps is to support and encourage literacy for all Ossining children from the earliest age in order to lay a strong foundation for future academic achievement. The program supports and encourages literacy for children from birth to age four through comprehensive services available to the entire family. The Little School/La Escuelita is a half day interactive nursery program for three year olds that meets four times a week. Every Monday, parents are required to attend school with their child, further supporting the development of parenting skills and early literacy.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay Street, Katonah, NY 10536. For more information, please call (914) 232-9555 or visit [www.katonahmuseum.org](http://www.katonahmuseum.org).

### **Museum Hours:**

Tuesday through Saturday from 10am - 5pm, Sunday from 12pm - 5pm, closed Monday. General admission: \$10 adults, \$5 seniors & students. Members & children under the age of 12 always enter free.

### **Free Docent-Led Guided Tours:**

Tuesday through Sunday, 2:30pm. Tours are free with Museum admission.

### **Ossining Library Hours:**

Monday	9am – 9pm
Tuesday	10am – 6pm
Wednesday	1pm – 9pm
Thursday	9am – 9pm
Friday	10am – 6pm
Saturday	9am – 5pm
Sunday	1pm – 5pm

### **CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:**

<i>The Nest, an exhibition of art and nature</i>	through June 19, 2016
Aaron Curry, <i>UGLY MESS</i>	through June 19, 2016
<i>OnSite Katonah</i>	July 10 - October 2, 2016
Victoria Fu, <i>Egg</i>	July 10 - October 2, 2016
<i>Matisse Drawings: Curated by Ellsworth Kelly</i> <i>from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation Collection</i>	October 23, 2016 – January 29, 2017

Stay connected with the Katonah Museum of Art on Facebook ([facebook.com/KatonahMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/KatonahMuseum)), Instagram ([@KatonahMuseum](https://www.instagram.com/KatonahMuseum)) and Twitter ([@KatonahMuseum](https://twitter.com/KatonahMuseum).)

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