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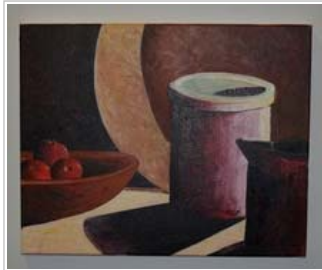
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"I'm loving the site"  
-Angela M. Kessler,  
Saint Barnabas Outpatient Centers,  
4/4/09

News & Information

## Arts Unbound: Providing Arts Education and Vocational Training in Visual Arts for People with Special Needs

By Michael M. Shapiro  
11/13/2009



ORANGE, NJ - Arts Unbound, located in Orange, New Jersey, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the artistic achievement of youth, adults and seniors living with mental, physical and developmental disabilities. The organization provides arts education and vocational training to people with special needs.

Professional classes in the visual

arts are taught in their studio and regionally, in North Jersey. Professional instructors are hired to teach painting, sculpture, ceramics, graphic design, collage, jewelry making, illustration and more. Group classes, master classes and individual instruction, depending upon need and interest, are available year round. Arts Unbound is committed to providing vocational opportunities by featuring the work of emerging artists with disabilities in their gallery and throughout New Jersey. The organization serves youth (age 10 and over) as well as adults and senior citizens with disabilities.

Arts Unbound programs serve about 250 individuals monthly at its studio or at various off site locations including schools, senior centers and agencies for people with disabilities. Additionally the public at large is invited to the Arts Unbound gallery for special events and sales where beautiful works of art created by student and independent artists are for sale. All proceeds are split between the artist and the agency. Many pieces of artwork created by client artists are also included in community exhibitions.

Gail Levinson, Director of Arts Unbound, told The Alternative Press, "Arts Unbound is a small but powerful organization that offers a creative outlet and income stream for promising artists living with special needs. Persons visiting our gallery are moved emotionally by the quality of the artwork and the biographies of each and every artist whom we promote." The agency has more than doubled its budget over the past 2 years and is hoping to continue to grow, reaching more and more individuals throughout New Jersey, but particularly in the Essex, Union and Morris County region. Arts Unbound has expanded its studio/gallery space to accommodate two classrooms as the demand for services has increased substantially.

Arts Unbound receives its income through foundation support (including the United Way of Summit, Berkeley Height and New Providence), donors and fee for service. The organization is constantly looking for students, artists, volunteers and donors. Among its many initiatives is a greeting card line of images by artists with developmental disabilities. Currently, holiday greetings created by artists with developmental disabilities can be purchased online in the Arts Unbound online store or by visiting their gallery. The catalog can

be viewed at: <http://www.artsunbound.org/ASAP/699673%20ArtsUnbound.pdf> Online orders can be made by logging onto the Arts Unbound website at <http://www.artsunbound.org/holidaystore.htm>

To purchase a work of art, refer a student, become a volunteer or instructor or learn more about the organization, contact Arts Unbound at 973-675-2787 or go to [www.artsunbound.org](http://www.artsunbound.org)

**Photo above:** *Tom Wade - Still Life*

*Photo courtesy of Arts Unbound*



*Amy Charmatz - Woman on Couch*

*Photo courtesy of Arts Unbound*



*Senior group project (Generations Division) - Hooray for Hollywood*

*Photo courtesy of Arts Unbound*

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