

Sketch

working arts for street involved + homeless youth

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feast on art, feast on food, feast on conversation, feast on celebration

FEAST • NOV 27 • 3 to 7:30

bring food (it's a potluck, right here at SKETCH, all welcome, FREE, call Chad to volunteer

Get ready for the COLD *by Julian Diego*

Across the city people are gearing up for the upcoming winter. Out Of the Cold sites are being finalized and prepared. Drop-ins are allocating resources and considering adding hours for the inevitable Cold Weather Alerts. People in squats and shanties are busy winterizing, insulating with whatever's available and hoping that they won't have to watch their work get demolished from the back of a squad car.

In some ways the city has expanded the services available, with more housing workers, some new supportive housing expected to come over the winter, and (limited) subsidies for private market rental housing. In other ways, however, the streets are less safe since places where people were able to sleep out such as City Hall are no longer available. This will result in driving people back into the alleys, ravines, and under bridges where they are more vulnerable to victimization, and cut off from basic services.

People with substance use issues, consumer/survivors of psychiatric services, and other high needs individuals find it particularly hard in winter. Available spaces are more cramped, shelters get full and resources are stretched. Nights get longer, colder, and more dangerous as the season progresses.

At SKETCH we anticipate increased numbers of participants, people staying longer during Open Studio, with increased need for support. We will give out more tokens, more supplies, more food, and some basic survival supplies such as sleeping bags and hats (thank you CommuKnits and Operation Good Thing!). As the studio fills up with all the different personalities, there will be both beautiful examples of community care to celebrate and heart wrenching conflicts and crises to manage.

I am reminded of an image from March of The Emperors, of the penguins surviving an Antarctic blizzard: they shelter each other, huddle together, taking turns in the warm middle and the blustering edges...



Great Grants Award!!!

SKETCH was nominated for The Ontario Trillium Foundation 2005 Great Grants Awards. SKETCH was chosen to receive the **Award of Distinction**, an award given to one organization out of over 3,800 others in Ontario for enhancing one or more of OT's granting priorities. You can check out the details and the photo of the award on the website www.trilliumfoundation.org. It was a great honor and tribute to everyone who works, volunteers and especially participates at SKETCH. Congratulations to all!

New Partnerships!!!

SKETCH has been chosen by World Vision Canada as one of its 10 national partners in a program aimed toward ending child and youth poverty in Canada. This is a long term partnership that focuses on building the skills that will enable youth to make positive changes out of the cycle of poverty. World Vision is interested in establishing a model that can be transferred to other urban centres across the country.



New Web Site

Let us know what you think about our new web site. Thanks to Justin Broadbent, the designer, for doing such a beautiful job. www.sketch.ca

Wood Art FREEschool by: Jo & Faeghan

In this fall's Art Free School we are working on a project that our instructor Kerry likes to call: "Thematic Cabinetry." There are four participants, along with a peer-educator and an instructor. This program runs every Wednesday from noon until five o'clock p.m. for seven weeks. The course involves the development and implementation of each member's concept of a thematic cabinet. What is a thematic cabinet you ask?

It's a space of our own that we claim with wood and nails. It's something awesome that you make out of a few pieces of abandoned crate. It's the soul that you breathe



into the carcass of a design with paint and a good idea. It's the result of patience and dedication. It's a piece of practical art. It represents the divine act of creativity, reminding us that we are essentially creations ourselves. It answers the call to create that is innate in each one of us.

During the seven weeks the participants are educated in the basics of woodworking including shop safety, basic measurements and tool identification and their proper use. As participants develop their proficiency in the wood shop, they are able to work more independently. A lot of change happens from the time of conception to the completion of the cabinet. The design made on paper doesn't always develop into the final product. We are learning much about the importance of flexibility and good problem-solving skills during the process of building the cabinets; these skills are transferable to other parts of our lives. Although we work independently the group is fused together during the bonding that takes place when we share a meal together at the beginning of each session. It is here that we share ideas and suggest options to each

other, or just joke around and chit chat. We are lucky to enjoy our tasty lunches thanks to our peer educator Jo, who does the shopping and preparing of the meals. We are really spoiled in this regard!

We are quickly becoming fluent in the language of the wood working shop. Words like "biscuit joiner" and "table saw" are becoming a part of our vocabulary. It feels good to be able to use the machines that only a short while ago seemed to be intimidating. We may not end up becoming carpenters by trade, but there is a noticeable difference from our humble beginnings.

In addition to working in the shop we also ventured out of doors on a field trip to local wood working shops of a more professional nature. We were fortunate to be given a guided tour of a commercial facility where we were able to ask questions and find out more about the trade for those of us who are interested in possibly pursuing carpentry as a career. We also snuck into a commercial furniture store for inspiration!

At the end of the seven weeks, we will be displaying our finished thematic cabinets for the world to see. These cabinets will be clothed in each of our personal stories and hopefully will narrate a little bit about who we are. The creation of the cabinets is a personal expression of each participant and although self-referencing, there are universal elements to the pieces that everyone can appreciate. The Thematic Cabinets can be seen as a metaphor of transition from the cocoon stage of the idea to the beautiful butterfly that emerges at the end. In five different ways, the cabinets emerge from a pencil and paper drawing into works of art.

A Fairly Temporary Loss of Myself

I lost over a year and a half out here on these streets...
Playing in traffic – Hiding in alleys – Fucking my head up

A whole chunk of my life – gone –
It seems to have scrambled my thought patterns –
Fucked up my whole way of life

My mind is a mess now....
All because I gave up on me and gave in to the confusion

Finally I have regained some that was lost.
And now I see through new eyes

I walk along these streets with mangled
And shaken emotions,
But a wider range of view.

I see so many things that should have been visible long before,
Yet I still have no sense of direction.

But I'm a different person than before
I have gained a lot of strength.
Now I'm ready to give up on the past
And I'm gonna make a new future,
With these new eyes
Wide open.

- Poem by Budynah

Apprenticeships in the Air, *Heather Bain, Education Support Worker*

The fall season is a time of change, and there is plenty of it happening in the education support program here at SKETCH. This term many new students started courses at local and national community colleges and universities, while returning students entered into their second and third year of schooling. There is also change happening within the structure of the program, and excitement is brewing over the possibilities of partnering art students with mentors and apprenticeships in the community. This would provide the participants with great opportunities to be supported one-on-one in their chosen field of study. While the prospect of an apprenticeship program at SKETCH is still in the 'ideas stage', it is a viable and exciting goal to work towards for next year!

Be Your Own Boss!

This summer's Vending Research Project allowed youth to explore opportunities to use the art and craft-making skills developed at SKETCH to experience making money while "being their own boss". A senior participant at SKETCH, Zanette Singh, was hired to coordinate this hands-on research into self-employment through the arts. Zanette supported other participants to create merchandise, which was sold at a vending table on Queen Street, east of Spadina. Five youth had merchandise on the vending table over 5 weekends in July and August. We will be launching vending next year in June. We would love to hook up with some vending at craft shows. Any ideas are welcome. Email info@sketch.ca.



All 2005 donors receive the 2006 SKETCH full colour calender, which is now available. Please give generously!!

United Nations Photo Project

The World Urban Forum is an initiative of the United Nations' Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT). Held every two years, the World Urban Forum invites governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and other experts on urban issues from around the world to discuss the challenges of urbanization. The World Urban Cafes are a series of events leading up

"It KICKED!" Blundstone Event 2005

Friday September 23rd, SKETCH and Blundstone Footwear got together for the 2nd Annual "Do Something with a Blundstone" fundraising celebration. This event is truly a community happening. Held at the Steamwhistle Brewery, people of all ages came to toss boots, bid on boots and dance away to a live band



playing disco funk. It was high energy and enjoyed by over 500 people. We are very grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the evening's events. We especially want to thank Ian Heaps and Tim Stacey from Blundstone who put so much of their time and energy into making it happen!! In addition to the evening's wonderful ambiance, 40 pairs of boots were taken by artists and 'arted up' and made available for a live and silent auction by so many talented people. After holding a judging event at SKETCH, ten of the boots were chosen for the live auction. We look forward to planning next year's celebration of art, community and youth.

ANCY Conference



SKETCH took part in the Arts Network for Children and Youth Forums, a national conference putting arts on the radar of the federal government to consider as they make policy regarding children and youth. One was in Vancouver and another here at Harbourfront Centre.

to and at the World Urban Forum where youth have the opportunity to express the impact of urban issues on their lives, and to offer input to the bigger conference.

On Saturday, Oct. 1st at Harbourfront's Culture Shock Conference, 2 SKETCH participants showed photos on the theme of transportation and affordable housing. They were supported by 3 other participants with experience who shared their skills in photography.

17 reasons why I love SKETCH, By: Faeghan, sketch participant

SKETCH is so amazing but I will give you the most important reason up-front – empowerment. The following list describes the theme of empowerment in various forms. It is through these resources that the magic of SKETCH is felt. I am truly grateful to be in the position to receive the gifts stated below and let me tell you, it's only the abridged version! In no particular order, it is as follows...

- 1. THE WONKY PIANO.** Instead of a radio playing and people fighting over what station to listen to, the wonky piano has a charm to it that fills the studio with its off-pitched melodies creating a happy vibe in which to work.
- 2. THE FOOD.** It's wonderful to have a place to go when you're starving. SKETCH nourishes the body and the soul. Much bonding takes place around the table.
- 3. THE STAFF.** It feels wonderful to be treated with dignity and respect. The staff do a great job of making you feel at home. They are approachable and very helpful. I like how they don't talk down to you or make you feel stupid.
- 4. THE SEWING AREA.** Sewing is practical and cool. I've yet to use this area but I plan on using it soon. I like the fact that it's available in the first place!
- 5. THE MUSIC AREA.** I like being able to jam, rock out on the piano, drum on the djembe, or just listen and enjoy other people in the playground of music.
- 6. THE PHONE.** It's wonderful to be able to make a phone call when you need to!
- 7. THE FEELING OF SAFETY.** SKETCH is a clean, safe, drug-free environment and I feel good knowing that. I can live in the present moment and look to the future instead of

worrying about the past.

8. THE PEOPLE. It's easy to make friends at SKETCH; everyone is so friendly and approachable

9. FREE ART SCHOOL. Free art school is a metaphor for the rest of life where there is planning, and the grunt-work of processing before arriving at a final product. I am learning the importance of having a flexible plan and good problem-solving skills.

10. THE RESOURCE INFORMATION. SKETCH has tons of information available from where to find a place to sleep, to where to find a job, and everything in between. There is even a map on the wall that visually shows where many of the main resources are!

11. THE SUPPORT. I know that I speak for many people when I say that this is a major reason why I enjoy coming to SKETCH so much. In other parts of my life, there is no support and it is very lonely and difficult trying to navigate my way around potential dangers and snares. At SKETCH, I feel supported emotionally, as well as with my basic needs and my hunger to express myself creatively. I am learning that it's safe to open up, to speak, and to be heard. Support often comes in the tiniest gestures like a genuine smile, or somebody calling me by my name. Support isn't about being taken care of, it's about having someone to root for you as you learn to take care of yourself.

*Read #12 through #17
by visiting the website:
[www.sketch.ca/news & events](http://www.sketch.ca/news&events)*

I need a safe place to live where are not 911.
I need a free, safe place to live where there are not 911.
I basically want to lounge, sleep, eat, work, dance around everywhere.
If there was no 911 I could do so.
Please get me out of the 911's world,
And into the lounge, sleep, eat, work, dance around everywhere world.

DD

My heart pumps a liquid called pain.
It flows through each and every vein seeping deep into my mind.
It's corrupted inside.
Displayed to the public by eyes so deep.

Do you dare to try
To look inside
From one shattered moment
To another shattered memory

Look into my eyes
Can you see my pain?
Can you see where it all started?
Can you help me find
The reason why
The pain won't go away?

Budynah

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NOKIA Canada
Ontario Arts Council
Ontario Trillium Foundation

Raptors Foundation
Selah Charitable Trust
The Kensington Foundation
The Leafs Fund
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United Way Greater Toronto, Winter Relief Fund
World Vision Canada
& countless individual supporters



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