

Sketch

grand opening

Working Arts for Street-Involved and Homeless Youth • 580 King St. W., 2nd Floor • Toronto, Ontario M5V 1M3 • 416-516-5428 • www.sketch.ca • Volume 4 Issue 1 March 2003

Sketch is Emerging

by Rudy Ruttiman, General Manager

Sketch has opened the doors of its new space at 580 King Street West in Toronto. It is clear by how many young people are coming, that we have arrived and are meeting a strong need in the community. Our challenges include integrating into the new space, growing as a team while maintaining the integrity of who we are, what we do and how and why we do it.

Along with those participating, all of us at Sketch are taking risks and breaking new ground. It is a challenging and exciting new time both administratively and in the development of programs. Its many years of development and experimentation have grounded it well, the youth have inspired it and Sketch is emerging as an arts initiative ready to make a cultural impact.

We were fortunate to have been successful in our bid for federal support through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative. This capital grant has enabled us to create a beautiful working environment and purchase high caliber equipment for programs that will last for years. Our challenge now is to match what was raised capitally with a strong funding base for our programs - to keep our programs running for years to come.

There is a strong need to increase the number of days that our Multi-Media Open Studio is available to youth. We have the infrastructure, the space, and the equipment. We have the commitment of gifted and skilled artists from the community. The need of new options for street-involved and homeless youth is there and we have a proven concept. We are seeing the number of youth triple from our previous space and everything indicates that this will only increase. Presently we are able to offer Open Studio two days per week and serve 40 youth over these two days. The goal is to open more days but we need the help of the community.

Sketch has been hiring, training and building a strong and committed team. We believe that

consistency and healthy team building are essential to the success of the programming. A strong team offers confidence in the initiative and commitments to the work. This leads to overall organizational health and stability and offers the community a sound investment.

We definitely need social investment in order to sustain our growth. A strong commitment from community members that we are a critical part of transforming community would

demonstrate to foundations, government and corporations that they cannot afford to not invest dollars into the work we do.

We continue to be grateful for the generous support of those who over the years have given so much. You have given us wings to enter into this new chapter with courage. We ask that you continue to support us as we meet the challenges ahead. It is your commitment to Sketch and the youth involved in Sketch that allows us to continue to provide this critical service.

Art is a powerful vehicle that can break down barriers, unleash the imagination, encourage a vibrant sense of self and stimulate youth to begin a journey towards health and wholeness. Art making can redeem for them a lost innocence and a sense of play. Painting, sculpting, designing and building all provide a pathway for communication and give us insight into the housing, employment and health needs of youth.

Join us as we emerge and unfold in the next year! You will be affecting the lives of many young people. We will keep you informed and share with you our challenges and success.

Through critique workshops participants will further develop critical skills in art interpretation with an understanding of the importance of the feedback process in moving forward technically and artistically.

Mentoring program participants will be paired with artists in the community to explore their field and make lasting links to the broader Toronto arts community. Sketch is so excited about providing the opportunity for participants to learn with and from practicing



View of the studio



View of the kitchen area



View of the music area

Sketch Connections Begin Again

Leesa Hamilton, Self-Employment Coordinator

The Sketch Connections Community Economic Development project has begun its second year. This 8 month program is designed to support CED Year 1 graduates in further developing their body of art-work while taking concrete steps toward income generation through the arts. The program combines group critique workshops, mentoring, art-making and one-to-one support in reaching both art-making and self-employment goals.

artists. This is such an important step in really developing and addressing individual paths and skills.

If you are interested in participating in the Spring/Summer mentoring program we would love to hear from you. We are currently looking for artists and small business people who work in the following areas: film, illustration, hand sewn/knit accessories, bike accessories (carts, trailers etc.) textiles, print-making, photography (food/wedding) and sculpture.

It is Fertile Ground



As the number of participants increases the team of Sketch also continues to grow. Aijun Zhang, replaces our administrative assistant, Meili Tang, who is currently on maternity leave. Since the beginning of March her skills have helped to reinforce a solid administration! Sarah Sharkey-Pearce replaces one of our Artist Facilitators, Rebecca Houston, who is also on maternity leave. Sarah comes with a lot of experience in film-making. We are excited as she assists with the establishment of our newest addition of a multi-media studio.

Leesa Hamilton has joined us in the position of the Self-Employment Coordinator. Leesa brings

with her years of experience with youth and employment. She is primarily working with the CED Project and developing a mentorship project.

Kerry Boileau has become a regular face at Sketch as a Contract Artist. She has worked with a team of youth creating mosaics and building furniture for the space. She organizes and coordinates the opening of the woodshop.

Bohdan Petryk has acted as Interim Program Coordinator and will be leaving at the end of March. We thank Bohdan for his time and his amazing contributions to the space over the past few months.

Multi-Media Open Studio Up and Running

Michael O'Connell, Artist Facilitator



On November 17th, 2002 we opened the doors of our Multi-Media Open Studio. We were far from completing our renovations but with a new team in place we asked, "if not now, then when?" Within a week, the Open Studio doubled the maximum number of people who used to visit with us at our old location. So many have come to reconnect and so many have come for the first time to explore, splash paint, read quietly, sketch anatomy, try the pottery wheel, play and sing, carve soapstone, drum and pound hammers, use our powertools to make new furniture for their new dwellings, eat food and quietly watch the flurry of activity and solitude co-exist.

The Open Studio participants continue to grow in number and it is encouraging to know that we have made the right move. We have had little time to do a full outreach program but the word is out and most youth hear about Sketch by word of mouth from other participants. This is proving to be the most successful outreach!

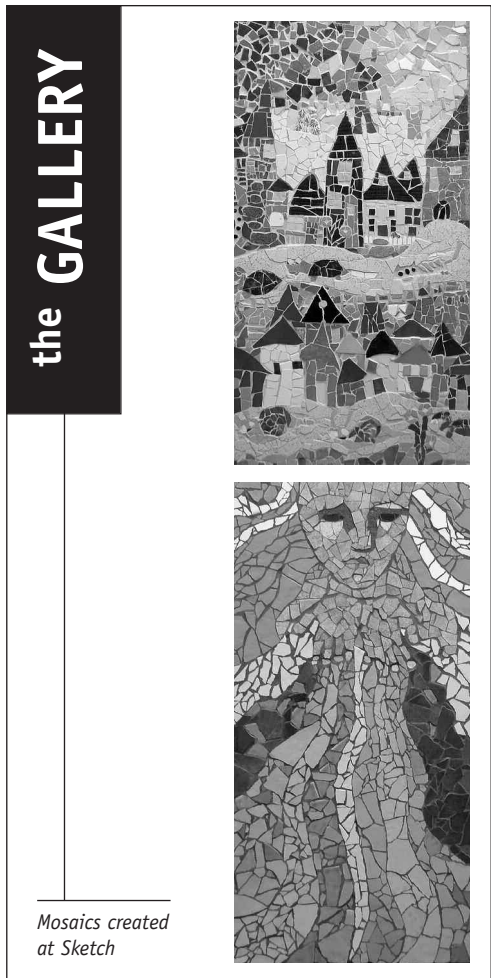
Our renovation is now predominantly finished and our commitment is to offer the best space and facilitation possible. As our numbers increase it is important that the team takes time to re-define how the space works now that the renovation is complete. Several areas in the studio are being prepared to open over the next few months. The woodshop, computer resource area are almost set up, the kiln is almost ready to fire up new works, the piano has been tuned... we are ready to serve the street-involved community and begin to explore art-full alternatives to street life.

Photo Club Snapping

Sketch programming continues to grow in response to the community. PhotoNights at Gallery 44 takes place on the last Thursday of each month. It's a time for many people who have been involved in past photography projects to continue building their skills and portfolios in the darkroom. It is a popular medium with lots of skills being learned both inside and outside the darkroom. Participants have use of 35mm cameras. Black and white photography continues to be the most popular. We hope to develop a show to be mounted at Sketch in the near future.

That's a Wrap!

It is revealing, it is moving and it is hip! Two young film students, Justin Broadbent and Meg Majewski, spent three weeks with the Sketch team and participants in the creation of a short documentary. They have been able to capture a true spirit of the creativity and inspiration that takes place every day at Sketch. It reveals the thoughts of participants and how they felt entering Sketch for the first time and the impact it has had on their lives. The live music and still images form a powerful retrospective! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this art piece. We are looking forward to sharing this work with many new people.



t-shirts



\$20.00

An Invitation to Join Friends of Sketch

Sketch does a remarkable service helping young people who believe themselves anomic and futureless to find a spiritual spark and a viable identity within themselves through art. Our open studio program is the entry point for those with whom we work. It serves 30 young people per open day. We are now able to afford two open days per week. We would like to open for two more, but right now the cost is beyond us. The two additional open studio days per week are the first challenge to be taken on by the Friends.

Please make cheques payable to Sketch and mail to:
Marny Hamilton
 Friends of Sketch, President
 580 King Street West, 2nd Floor
 Toronto, ON M5V 1M3

DEAR MARNY;

- YES, I would like to join Friends of Sketch at the annual feel of \$100.00* \$_____
 - I would like to make a donation* / an additional donation* of \$_____
 - Please put me on the mailing list for Sketch Newsletter
- We can now accept Visa or Mastercard Donations over the phone*
- TOTAL Enclosed \$_____

*Charitable receipts for tax purposes given for all amounts above.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Sketch enjoys the generosity and support of the following:	Toronto Homeless CED Program	World Vision Canada	Kensington Foundation
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City of Toronto Drug Abuse Prevention Program	The Ontario Trillium Foundation	George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	
Laidlaw Foundation	Toronto Arts Council	Bethel Missionary Church	
Bank of Montreal	Toronto Dominion Bank	Carruthers Creek Community Church	
Harbinger Foundation	Our Lady Help of Christians CWL	Trinity United Church Youth Group	
And countless generous individual supporters!			