



with these media that most of them have never used. We don't use markers and crayons and we're not about coloring in the lines," explains Kanela MacGregor, who started Art For Kids Inc. on Maui.

The 501c3 nonprofit has received such a positive response from parents and principals that it is reaching out to even more children around the island.

"We really focus on the fine art skills, such as light source, drawing in perspective and color harmony. We want the children to be confident in their skills as an artist because we believe every child is an artist - all they need is a safe nurturing environment, quality supplies and to be shown how," she says.

MacGregor has worked in education for the last 18 years on Maui. Her experience ranges from Punana Leo O Maui preschool teacher to Hawaiian culture teacher at Haleakala Waldorf and summer school teacher at the Kamehameha Schools Maui. She is also the founder of Na Lei Ulu O Ka Aina, an afterschool Hawaiian language program. "I learned during my 7 years at Na Lei Ulu how important afterschool enrichment classes were for

ART FOR KIDS

At Art For Kids, the instruction isn't just black and white -- or any of those other bland shades in between.

"Which colors do you think are warm and exciting and which colors feel relaxed, cool or even quiet?" asks teacher Lori Lewis, holding up an oil pastel self portrait made up of two halves. One side is drawn with the warm colors of orange, red and yellow, and the other with cool colors blue, green and purple.

Seeing the disparate half faces line up together is a bit shocking as there seem to be two pictures in one.

"What do you feel when you see this side of the picture, Cameron?" Lewis asks as she folds the paper in half to reveal Cameron's blue side.

"I don't know. Tired. Like I've been surfing all day," says Cameron.

In her classroom at Haiku School, Lewis is constantly asking her students how they feel or what they think about how colors look together, show certain feelings, or even make sounds. It's all part of giving children the opportunity to really think about art.

Art For Kids Inc. has been offering its thoughtful after school art programs at our public schools for three years. It just added an "Artist In The School" program and is now expanding its summer program so that more of Maui's kids can experience the pleasure of creating fine art.

"We use oil pastels, charcoal, acrylic and water color paints, color pencils, clay, and we show the children how to work

children. I learned at Waldorf how important art was, and now I have a blend of both with Art For Kids," she says.

She began Art for Kids on Maui after her brothers acquired the 20-year-old company on the mainland. It was a great way for her to work and stay home with her two young boys.

Today, the program teaches art to more than 500 students and is growing rapidly. New for the summer program is the Art For Tots classes for 3-4 year olds and an art class every day of the week. The regular summer classes will still be available on the weekends. So it doesn't matter if your child is enrolled in a summer fun program during the week, because Art For Kids will have a class that's available for them.

"We try to provide what parents want and last summer a lot of parents wanted their children to come every day so we're offering that this summer," says MacGregor.

"We really like to use art as a cultural expression also, so the children are learning fine arts while also getting cultural awareness of their ancestors at the same time." Last semester stu-

Art for Kids Summer Schedule

Art For Kids: Ages K-4. 8 Saturdays or Daily M-F. Saturday classes begin June 11. Daily classes meet July 5,6,7,8,11, 13,14, and 18.

Art For Kids 2: Ages 10-14. 8 Saturdays or Daily M-F. Saturday classes begin June 11. Daily classes meet July 5,6,7,8,11, 13,14, and 18.

Art For Tots: June 11,18,25 July 2,9,23,30, Aug. 6. 8 Saturdays 8:30-9:30 Ages 3-4.

dents created artwork using prints taken from a real fish. "The kids use block point on the fish and depending on the medium they turn or rub out the print." This is called Gyotaku, named after the town in Japan where it was practiced as a way to record the fish caught each day.

MacGregor is proud of the fact Art For Kids has never turned anyone away because they couldn't afford the classes. There are scholarships, financial plans and work programs so that any child can have a chance at learning fine art. "For me a really big part of the program is to make the art available to everybody whether they can afford it or not. Art is so important. It's always been my goal never to turn anyone away," she says.

The instructors are experienced teachers and artists with qualifying degrees for teaching children. They either have a Bachelors or Masters Degree in Fine Art or Education. "My teachers love their job. They have that spirit of loving kids and they create a really safe, peaceful, beautiful space to create art, so the children love to come because they love their teacher. We have a great reputation because our teachers are awesome," MacGregor says.

Art For Kids has just joined artsonia.com, a website that displays children's art so that parents and relatives can view it from their own computer. They can download it, send it to others, and even have the art printed on mugs and T-shirts. Each artist's infor-

mation is secretly coded so that only those with the password can view and comment on the art work. The family can also join the young artist's "fan club" and send them fan mail about the beautiful art they've created. The children feel proud that their art is displayed for others to see, and the family can become more involved with the exceptional work that the children do.

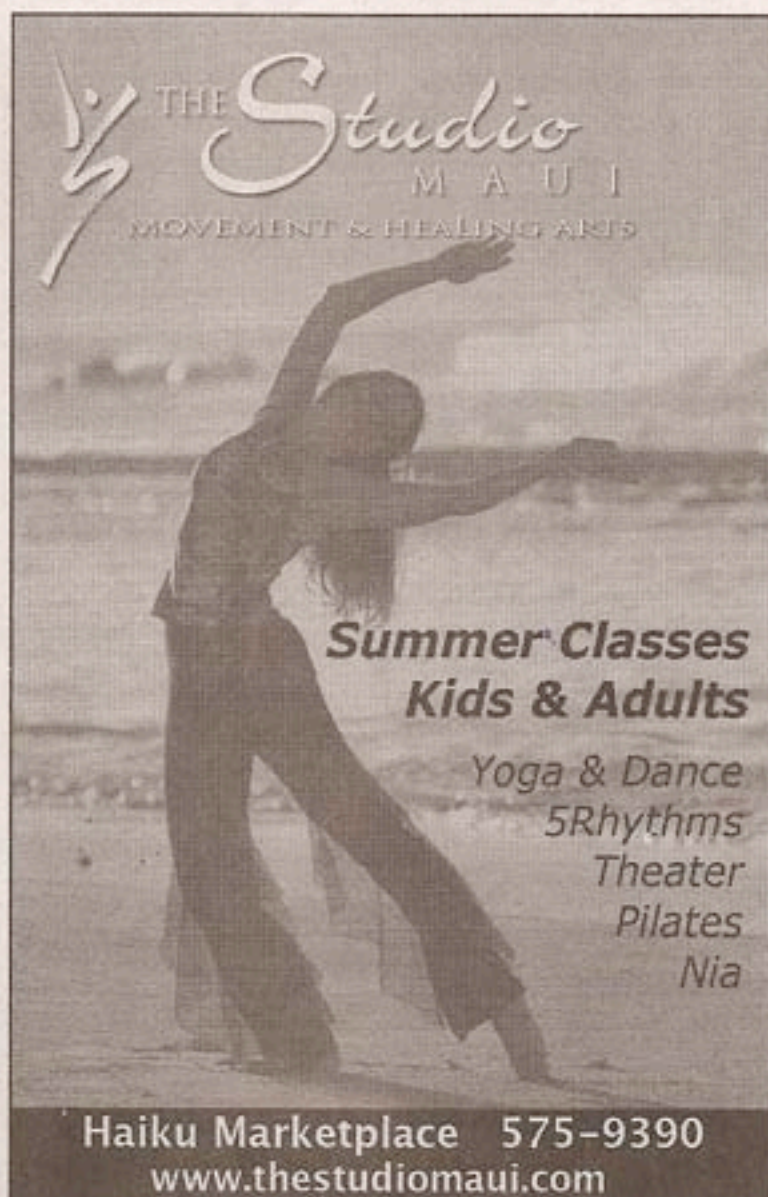
Art is an important facet of child development, and with the requirements of federal "no child left behind" mandate, schools are beginning to focus more and more on academics -- to the detriment of the arts and the spirit of the young child.

"That's not good news," MacGregor says, "because studies have shown that students with a well-rounded education that includes the arts actually do better academically."

Art For Kids is showing children how to develop a part of themselves that may not be getting the attention necessary to making them the fulfilled little treasures that they are.

"For me what's really important is to have heart in everything we do. Our saying, 'teaching art is a work of heart' is so much of what we're all about", MacGregor says.

For more information on the programs being offered by Art For Kids in the summer or also for next school year, call them at 878-1728 or at artforkids@hawaii.rr.com



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