



## Office of General Services

For Immediate Release: 03/4/2016

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### **SEVENTH ANNUAL STUDENT EXHIBIT FEATURES ART INSPIRED BY PLAZA ART COLLECTION**

#### **Students From 61 Local Schools Display Their Art at the Empire State Plaza**

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the opening of the 2016 Empire State Plaza Art Collection Student Exhibition on the Empire State Plaza Concourse. Established in collaboration with the Capital Area Art Supervisors, more than 1,000 pieces of work created by students from 61 schools in 12 Capital Region school districts will be on display from March 5 through March 20.

“I can think of no better way to celebrate the Plaza Art Collection’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary than by exhibiting the artwork of students who have been inspired by the paintings and sculptures that make up the state’s extraordinary collection,” Destito said. “Giving these students’ their first taste of public exposure in a space shared by the works of Mark Rothko, Alexander Calder, and other Abstract Expressionists is a wonderful way to observe National Youth Art Month. I commend the Capital Area Art Supervisors and my curatorial team at OGS whose dedication and hard work have made this exhibit a success for each of the last seven years.”

The student exhibit is the result of a collaboration between the OGS Plaza Art Collection Office and the Capital Area Art Supervisors. Through special tours and educational resources, the program introduces the Plaza Art Collection into the curriculum of local elementary and middle schools where the students are invited to create their own works of art by interpreting the Plaza Art Collection.

“This is the seventh year CAAS has collaborated with NYS OGS in conjunction with National Youth Art Month,” said Sheila M. Elario, K-12 Instructional Administrator for Art at Guilderland Central Schools. “We are excited to be a part of the 50th anniversary of the Empire State Plaza Art collection celebrations. As a new feature of this exhibit, each of the student labels include the name of the artist from the ESP collection that they were influenced/inspired by to create their own work.”

The exhibit, held in conjunction with National Youth Art Month, features works of art created by students in kindergarten through eighth grade. School districts represented include Albany, Berne-Knox-Westerlo, Bethlehem, Guilderland, Ichabod Crane, Mohonasen, Niskayuna, North Colonie, Schenectady, Scotia-Glenville, Shenendehowa, and Voorheesville.

An opening reception for the exhibit is being held at 3:30 on Thursday, March 10, featuring Robert R. Shane as the guest speaker. Shane is an associate professor of art history at the College of Saint Rose in Albany and has authored several articles and essays on contemporary art and theory and is currently writing a book on art, dance, and philosophy of time. He is the former managing editor of the journal “Art Criticism” published by Stony Brook University and a regular contributor of texts on art and dance for books published by Phaidon Press of London. Shane received his Ph.D. in art history and criticism from Stony Brook University where he studied with distinguished scholars in the fields of art history and philosophy, including Donald Kuspit and Jacques Derrida.

The Empire State Plaza Art Collection consists of 92 modern art paintings, sculptures, and tapestries that were purchased in the late 1960s to the early 1970s, including works by Alexander Calder, Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko. In all, 82 artists who were working in New York at the time the collection was acquired are represented. The collection, selected by a commission appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, was purchased with state funds during construction of the Empire State Plaza.

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