



## Office of General Services

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### **Eighth Annual Student Exhibition Features Art Inspired By Plaza Art Collection**

#### **Students From 66 Local Schools Exhibit 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 66 schools in 13 Capital Region school districts will be on view through March 19.

“Exhibiting the artwork of students who have been inspired by the paintings and sculptures that make up the Plaza Art Collection is a wonderful way to celebrate the state’s extraordinary collection and recognize the value of art education in our schools,” Commissioner Destito said. “Giving these young artists their first taste of public exposure in a space where the works of Mark Rothko, Alexander Calder, and other New York School artists are exhibited allows us to observe National Youth Art Month and show off the efforts of not only the students but the Capital Area Art Supervisors and my curatorial team at OGS.”

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 eighth year that CAAS (Capital Area Art Supervisors) has collaborated with NYS OGS in conjunction with National Youth Art Month,” said Kate Wright, K-12 Art Department Chair for the City School District of Albany and the CAAS ESP Show Chair. “We are excited to continue working with our K-8 art students to be inspired by the artworks of Albany’s Empire State Plaza Modern Art Collection. Having them take part in this extraordinary exhibition, connecting their own art work to this historically important art collection within our own community, is a wonderful opportunity for our capital area art students to both learn and shine.”

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, Ballston-Spa, 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 5:30 on Thursday, March 9, with Jillian Hirsch, a local artist, as the guest speaker. Jillian Hirsch is a local, community-based artist living in Troy, New York. Her artwork has primarily focused on the design and facilitation of highly participatory, large-scale mosaic murals in collaboration with community members and nonprofit partners such as Capital Roots and the Community Loan Fund. Jillian is interested in using creative outreach, art education and participatory practice as a means of fostering connections, developing community and engaging a diverse audience on social and environmental issues.

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 Jackson Pollock, David Smith, Clyfford Still, Robert Motherwell, Franz Kline and Joan Mitchell. 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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