



Friday, May 14, 2010

Contact: Jessica Lyness | jessica@nwfilm.org | 503-221-1156 x 14

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art: PDX

New Youth Made Films Turn Focus on Portland Artists

13 artists. 46 teens. 4 months.



(Portland, OR) Usually artist studios, darkrooms, backstage of runways and preliminary sketches of artistic projects remain mysterious and obscure to us. This spring, the Northwest Film Center's Young Filmmakers Program has partnered with the Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC) to provide a glimpse into these areas and to create a unique survey of Portland's local art scene and the artists who live and work here. These stories are being produced by 46 high school students with classroom teachers Bianca Espinosa and Stephen Lambert, and led by Filmmaker-in-Residence and Film Center faculty member Andy Blubaugh. Funded in part by a Regional Arts & Cultural Council's – Arts-In-Schools Project Grant, these students are making the first of several short films to locate and capture the creative method, artistic inspiration, and practice of Portland's artist community.

Portland maintains a healthy, rich, and ever-expanding community of artists who work within many disciplines – some working at the beginning of their careers, others with secure gallery representation and a burgeoning national audience. Artists for this project have been selected across mediums and include thirteen painters, sculptors, dancers, actors, and other artists who have graciously agreed to allow student filmmakers to interview them and observe their artistic process.

In addition to learning documentary film production, MLC students have investigated art mediums new to them, and been given an rare glimpse into the complex processes of art-making and can begin to understand artistic approaches to questions artists ask and address through their work. What will emerge is an original series of video vignettes, paired with a strong focus on new media distribution methods, including web-based and mobile technologies. Art: PDX will be distributed via web cast, social networking, web-blogs, and premiered at the Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium later this year.

For more information about Art: PDX, please contact Kristin Konsterlie at kristin@nwfilm.org or 503-221-1156 x 16.

The Northwest Film Center's Young Filmmakers Program places professional video, film, and animation artists in residence with schools and community groups throughout Oregon. Initiated in 1977, the program provides instructional and technical support, and curriculum development services, to approximately 40 schools and community sites throughout Oregon each year, and conducts partnership projects through which youth have a voice in their communities on a range of public issues. The Young Filmmakers Program is supported in part by the Portland Art Museum, National Endowment for the Arts, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Frank Hood Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Herbert A. Templeton Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Oregon Partnership, and Mount Hood Cable Regulatory Commission.

Northwest Film Center's School of Film: 934 SW Salmon St.

www.nwfilm.org

#