



exploring Creativity in Depth

**ARTS ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
PROVIDED BY THE MILKWEED COLLECTIVE**

Based in the Greater Toronto Area, The Milkweed Collective is dedicated to practicing the arts and promoting personal growth in a community context. Formed in 1995, the group includes painters and poets, mixed media artists and photographers, authors and teachers. The Milkweed art shows and workshops on the creative process have inspired many young people and adults to discover their individual potential through the joy of making and appreciating art.

The arts enrichment programs of the Milkweed Collective are facilitated by qualified artist-teachers and are made possible by:



For further information on the Program, please visit

www.exploringcreativity.org



The **Milkweed Collective** has provided arts enrichment programs for children and adults since 2002. The team of qualified artist-teachers under the direction of Austin Clarkson (professor emeritus, York University) also offers programs for children and youth with special needs.

- Participants discover their authentic creative potential in an atmosphere that is relaxed, supportive and well structured.
- Visioning exercises activate the creative imagination and making artworks engages the deep structure of the creative process.
- Participants express emergent images and feelings in oil pastel drawings, poems and stories.
- Valuing each individual's artwork promotes self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem.
- Respectful sharing of artwork in small groups fosters empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives.
- The program results in meaningful and often transformative experiences in participants with or without background in art.
- Students report renewed enthusiasm for art and respect for artists.

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ECID-ES5 A full-day version of the **Exploring Creativity in Depth** program for students, grades 1 to 8. Participants view a show of artwork by professional artists, have a warm-up activity and do a visioning exercise with

an artwork they have selected. They make oil pastel drawings, write poems and stories about them, and discuss their artworks in small groups facilitated by qualified artist-teachers. Follow-up activities are suggested in Language Arts and Social Studies.

ECID-ES3 The three-hour in-school program is provided in regular classrooms for grades 6, 7 and 8.

ECID-T The Workshop for Teachers familiarizes classroom teachers with the concepts and methods of the Exploring Creativity in Depth programs. The program covers:

- the features and qualities of the teacher's own creativeness;
- how the elements of art and design (line, colour, shape, textures) convey thoughts and feelings;
- multi-modal responses (soundscapes, movement, dramatizing, story-telling);
- making a safe space for respectful sharing of artwork;
- art as an exciting adventure of exploring, risk-taking, problem-solving and discovery;
- applications of open-ended instruction across the curriculum.



The **Mark It Up!** program consists of five minutes of free drawing while listening to music. Teachers report that the program focuses attention, calms feelings and tones up mind and body in preparation for lessons that require sustained attention and cognitive effort.



Exploring Nature and Imagination through art and science

Exploring Nature and Imagination through Art and Science for Grades 4 to 8. A Nature Walk and a 20-minute "Solo" in a park, woodland or ravine is the basis for making clay sculptures in the classroom. A visioning exercise with the sculptures is followed by sharing in groups. The class as a whole discusses issues of the environment and stewardship of the earth. Curriculum extensions: Science, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and the Arts.



Warm-up



Visioning



Drawing



Studio



Presentation



Stories



Discussion