

Puzzle Project Developed through

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of History

SAVE THE DATE: THE PUZZLE INSTALLATION & COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

You are invited to a reception featuring thousands of unique artistic puzzle pieces assembled together as a powerful exhibition.

DON'T JUST MAKE
SOMETHING...
MAKE SOMETHING
MEANINGFUL
TO YOU.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO CREATE YOUR OWN PUZZLE PIECE?

Join us on Saturday, February 5th, 2011 from 6:00-10:00pm

at the **MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER** 36 Church St., Middletown, NJ



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Middletown Arts Center Invites the Public to Create Puzzle Piece Art During The Puzzle Installation & Collaborative Project and Fundraiser: Thousands of Artists & Non-Artists Alike Share Their Personal Stories of Life & Love Through Art

Reception: Saturday, February 5, 2011, 6:00 -10:00 p.m.

Puzzle-Making Workshops: February 5, 26, March 19, and April 9, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Middletown, NJ (January 17th, 2011) -- The Middletown Arts Center (MAC) will exhibit The Puzzle Installation and Collaborative Project, an art installation of thousands of 24" x 24" puzzle pieces made in diverse media by artists and non-artists of all ages from across the county. Coordinated by artist Tim Kelly through a series of "Art is Good" puzzle making workshops and individual submissions of puzzle pieces, the installation is expected to grow to over 5,000 pieces. The public is invited to visit the MAC, enjoy the installation, and create puzzle pieces through July 1, 2011. The goal of the project is to connect people through art and share their beautiful stories about life and love with the world commencing with the project's final installation in 2012 in New York City.

On Saturday, February 5th, 2011 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m, the Middletown Arts Center will host an opening reception for The Puzzle Installation and Collaborative Project, featuring live music by world fusion band Monkeys in the Dark, refreshments by Surf Taco and Rita's Italian Ice of Middletown, and an "Art is Good" puzzle-making workshop.

Though the event is FREE and open to all ages, a \$20 donation is requested that evening to participate in the puzzle making workshop. The fee includes the individual puzzle piece and materials. Donations underwrite supplies and support the nonprofit Middletown Township Cultural & Arts Council and Monmouth Medical Center's Camp Jinka, a free summer program held at the Middletown Arts Center for kids and teens impacted by brain tumors or other cancers. This past summer, Camp Jinka artists also contributed puzzle pieces, which are on view in the installation.

"We ask that artists don't just make SOMETHING on their puzzle piece, but to create something MEANINGFUL to them. The result is an amazing display, likened to the AIDS Quilt, and we hope to gain similar recognition. There are many amazing, diverse puzzle pieces — some are painted, some are collaged, some have just words, and some are mixed media. Together they tell a beautiful story about people, life, love and art," said Tim Kelly, Coordinator, The Puzzle Installation & Collaborative Project.

The installation exhibition admission is FREE and the show will be on view at the MAC from February 5, 2011 to July 2011 . The show will initially be on view in the MAC's gallery from February 5th to February 21st when then expands throughout the building's 23,000-square-foot space through July 2011.

Following the reception, blank puzzle pieces will be on sale at the Middletown Arts Center for a \$10 donation and puzzle-making workshops at the MAC on February 26, March 19, and April 9th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Individuals of all ages and groups are welcome to attend the workshops. Puzzle pieces may be dropped off or mailed to the Middletown Arts Center for inclusion in the installation until July 1, 2011.

(continued)



"The Middletown Arts Center is the perfect venue for The Puzzle Project as we embrace each individual's artistic talents and stories. The Puzzle Installation and Collaborative Project showcases art in all media created by people of all ages and abilities. We hope people will visit from far and wide to enjoy this heart-felt project that exemplifies the power of creativity and partnering," said Maggie O'Brien, Executive Director, Middletown Arts Center.

The MAC gallery is open to the public Monday and Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. or by appointment. Please call 732-706-4100 or visit www.middletownarts.org for more information.

History of The Puzzle Installation & Collaborative Project

Sponsored by the Monmouth County Arts Council (MCAC) and Surf Taco, the Puzzle Installation and Collaborative Project was originally created and developed by artists Tim Kelly, Sandy Taylor (MCAC) and Marie Maber (Brookdale) as a three-dimensional installation of 800 pieces for the MCAC's 2009 Teen Arts Festival at Brookdale Community College. Today, the installation of uniform 24"x 24" puzzle pieces has grown to over 4,000 pieces. The goal of the project is to assemble puzzle pieces from all over the world for a public exhibition in New York City in 2012 that tells the personal stories of artists of all ages. Once united, the historic project should be at least nine feet tall and over 1,250 feet long!

The Puzzle Installation and Collaborative Project is comprised of artistic puzzle pieces in all media from hundreds of individuals in more than 14 states and seven countries, arts groups, the YMCA, Americorps, various brain tumor and cancer support groups, Compassionate Friends, businesses, library systems, and dozens of schools. Puzzle sub-installations are being developed internationally at The Secondary School of Applied Arts in Kosice in Slovakia, The Shanghai Community International School in China and the Escola Xin Hua at Macau in Hong Kong.

Examples of what artists have created on their puzzle pieces include the following:

- Artists at The Secondary School of Applied Arts in Kosice, Slovakia made puzzle pieces representing historic locations in their country as part of the Comenius Project.
- One clever artist made a plaster cast of her arm and fist, mounted it to her puzzle piece, busting out of newspaper articles, and added the words, "Punch lines make the best headlines."
- A tattoo artist participated by creating a flying pig with the words, "Anything is Possible."
- Parents from the Compassionate Friends organization made puzzle pieces in honor of children that had passed away.

About the Middletown Arts Center

The Middletown Arts Center (MAC) is an award-winning handicapped accessible state-of-the-art facility dedicated to bringing quality arts programming and events to Middletown and surrounding communities. The MAC offers enrichment programs and entertainment for all ages and abilities. Find the Middletown Arts Center on Facebook or visit www.middletownarts.org for more information.

To learn more visit www.puzzleartproject.com