

All ages art event set for Saturday

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UP editor

The Art Studio, Inc. in downtown Beaumont will host “Party-cipation 2.0,” 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday. This all ages, all skill level, multimedia, interactive event will allow participants to collaboratively create The Studio’s February exhibition.

A reception will be held from 7-10 p.m. that evening and the exhibit will remain on display through the month of February.

Coordinator Terri Fox, who is also manager and exhibition designer for the Stark Museum of Art in Orange, said “Party-cipation 2.0” is a collaborative community art project. Fox is working with fellow local artist Neil Pitak to put on the event.

“What I personally would like to see is everybody working side by side but still doing their own thing — creating a huge wall of collage with all the different layers of their interpretation,” she said.

The entrance wall will consist of a peoples’ choice gallery.

“Through the day, as you’re making art, you are voting on other people’s art,” Fox said. “When we get things ready for the reception in the evening, we’ll take the pieces of art that have been voted on and choose which ones go on the peoples’ choice wall.”

The Art Studio hosted a “Party-cipation” event in 2012, but Fox said the difference was that there was no direction. This time, however, participants will be asked to create works around four themes — love, hate, community and environment.



UP photo by Noah Dawlearn

Terri Fox paints the central graphic for the “community “art wall at The Art Studio for Saturday’s “Party-Cipation 2.0” event.

“What I’d like to see is artists, non-artists, parents, children — all different levels of interactivity creating these collage walls to the theme of love, or about hate, or environment, or about community,” she said. “Those are really big, broad, open ‘interpret-it-however-you-want’ kind of themes. Any kid can go, ‘These flowers make me full of joy and that means love.’ If you want to get into political agendas and those kind of topics, they can be about hate or the environment.”

Fox said that as work is created, the artist will immediately put it on the wall.

“I would love to have ladders out and cover the whole wall,” she said. “It starts with a 5x5 that says, ‘love’ and a heart, and people can start putting stuff on top

of that, or beside it, wherever. I would love it to be such a full day that there is stuff stuck to the wall all the way to the top.”

Participants will be encouraged to wear nametags as they work.

“As you are working with or near someone you don’t have to ask their name. You can just suddenly be friends.” Fox said.

The nametags will then be stuck to the “contributing artists” wall.

“Then everyone can see, even if you’re not there anymore, that you are a contributing artist to the show.”

Fox said the exhibit will be piecemeal because everyone will react to it as they arrive.

“It will be evolving — I hope — the whole day,” she said.

An important addition to this year’s event is the use of words.

“Words help direct the viewer without telling them what to think,” she said. “We cut out a lot of words, kind of like that refrigerator game where you put different words together to say something. (It’s a) way to add words to this overall theme and have it be overlaid with drawings from five-year olds or paintings from 35-year olds or 70-year olds — that kind of overlaying of texture and content along some themes.”

Fox said her work at the museum brings her into contact with theories of collaborative impact — how to get organizations working together for social change.

“It sounds really high falutin’

— but really it’s just about collaborating within your community to get the biggest impact,” she said. “Everybody puts in a little.”

The show is also about making people feel comfortable with the way they talk about art.

“I want people to feel comfortable in saying, ‘I like this work because...,’” she said. “You don’t need 10 years of art history to say why you like a piece of art or not.”

The Art Studio has been around 30-plus years, Fox said, and it is a place where people feel comfortable. It is a “maker’s space,” she said, as opposed to a museum like the Stark.

“Where some people might feel uncomfortable or out of place in a fussy clean museum, The Studio seems more like, ‘Sure, I’ll give it a try and see what happens.’ It seems more accessible,” she said.

“I want to challenge the elitism, the idea that I have to be educated to know anything about art — No!” she said. “At this, we want you to be able to have some fun, and put your hands in different mediums and see how you feel about that.”

“I want to break down those barriers and have people just come and play. They’re going to do it themselves and they’re going to interpret it themselves.”

“I think the more important thing is the bigger discussion — the bigger dialogue in the texture of everybody’s voice.”

The Art Studio is located at 720 Franklin in downtown Beaumont.

For more, call 838-5393 or visit www.artstudio.org.