

Close Your Eyes: Open Your Mind: A Tactile Event

October 16th Through November 20, 2009

Brought to you by VSA arts of Colorado and the Colorado Center for the Blind.

October is Meet the Blind Month. In recognition, VSA arts of Colorado and the Colorado Center for the Blind are hosting their second annual six-week long art show titled : Close Your Eyes, Open Your Mind. This is a tactile show in which the artists intent is accessible through the sense of touch. During the six weeks, individuals can experience unique tactile art, interactive art experiences, and fun learning events. This juried show will be held at VSA art's Access Gallery, 909 Santa Fe Drive, in the heart of Denver's hottest arts district. The Access Gallery is Colorado's only gallery dedicated to showcasing the work of artists with disabilities.



When The Hummingbird Opened Its Mouth To Sing
by Ann Cunningham

Entries are open to any artist interested creating tactile artwork. Artists need not be blind themselves. Tactile artwork is any work that the artist's intent is accessible through the sense of touch. This work needs to be safe to touch and explore. Artwork will be selected based on artistic merit. All forms of touchable artwork will be considered. Work must be ready to display. Each artist is limited to two pieces for this show. There is a \$10.00 entry fee for each piece of art work submitted. VSA arts of Colorado and the Colorado Center for the Blind reserve the right to accept or deny any artwork. Decisions are final and artists will be notified.

Two or three blind artists will be selected for a special showcase display. This will give these artists an opportunity to display more than two pieces. Please indicate if you are interested in being considered for this portion of the show.

All submissions must be delivered to VSAC/Access Gallery by Friday, October 9th from 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Or Saturday, October 10th from 10am-2pm. Call if other arrangements are needed. During October and November, 2 separate openings will be held, several workshops and classes will also be offered. Details to follow. For more information call Ann Cunningham of Sensational Books at 303/238-4760 or Cris Ciani at VSAC at 303/777-0797.

WORD UP

Access Gallery is pleased to present our first annual Juried Exhibit – Word Up, calling artists to create and submit artworks that include a written word or language within the art piece.

Throughout time, the world has viewed words/language as a grouping of symbols, characters or letters. This July, the Access Gallery will look at words as an art form through the submissions of artists. The selection of artworks that will be exhibited will be juried on the following criteria: 1. Best approach to theme of exhibit. 2. Best use and representation/expression of the word(s). 3. Aesthetic and creative approach to theme. 4. Best in Show.

Deadline for Submissions: July 6- 7, 2009, 6:00pm MST

Artwork will be delivered to VSA/Access Gallery at 909 Santa Fe Drive, Denver, CO July 6 or 7 from noon to 6:00 pm.

Exhibit Dates: July 17- August 7

Artist Reception: July 17

First Friday Reception: August 7

Juror: TBA

Criteria: The only requirement is that a written word be visible in the piece.

Details: Submissions are \$10 per piece. Maximum 3 entries per artist. Size not to exceed 3' x 4'. All pieces must be wired or otherwise ready and stable to hang. Artists works that are not selected for exhibit will be notified to pick up submission by July 15. We are unable to store work that is not selected. VSA/Access Gallery reserves the right to not exhibit artworks that are not gallery ready or stable to install, deemed unsuitable, fragile or inappropriate.

Awards: All awards will be appointed by our juror and will be presented to the artists opening night, July 17, 2009.

Best of Show – will receive \$50 and a 2010 studio show at the Access Gallery.

Cash Prizes – \$50 prizes

Artists will receive 70% of the sale of their work.

Please drop off work at Access Gallery 909 Santa Fe Drive Artwork that is selected will be hanging in the gallery from July 17 – August 14 and can be picked up (unless sold) on Friday, August 14 from 12pm–6pm or August 15 from 10am–2pm.