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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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ART SHOW CELEBRATES YOUTH ART MONTH

The Morgan Arts Council celebrates National Youth Art Month with the 17th annual special gallery exhibit of artwork created by local youth at the Ice House in Berkeley Springs. Also part of the month's activities is a painting workshop for kids.

The opening extravaganza on Friday, March 6 features musical and dance performances as well as hundreds of pieces of visual art. The Youth Art exhibit displays two- and three-dimensional works made by students in every Morgan County school and homeschoolers.

Refreshments will be served at the opening reception, which begins at 7 p.m.; the performances start at 7:15 p.m.

Performances include piano and violin students of Patricia Springer, Erin Leslie and Heather Worley, a presentation from Wind Dance Farm and Earth Education Center and East West Band playing global/alternative rock. A recording of the Berkeley Springs High School show choir will play in the gallery.

“The Youth Art Show encourages an appreciation of the arts and

reflects the fine quality of art instruction and talent which exist in Morgan County,” said Anna Ruggiero, art teacher at Warm Springs Intermediate School and curator of the show. “Art education is increasingly important because careers of the future need inventive people who can think critically to make improvements, one of many skills developed through art.”

Two pieces of youth art are used to promote the event. An abstract work by Alex Cave, a fourth-grader at Paw Paw Elementary School, is featured on the poster, and a drawing of the Eiffel Tower by Peyton Brown, a tenth-grade student at Berkeley Springs High School, was selected for the flier.

A wide range of artwork is exhibited in the show, including pottery, paintings, mosaics, and sculpture. Ruggiero is grateful for the work of all the art teachers who helped collect and hang the art. “This show could not happen without them,” she said. The Ice House provides a large amount of exhibit space for this extensive show, with artwork taking over a number of exhibit spaces. “We encourage the community to show their support of young artists by coming to see this exhibit,” said Anne Beckley, MAC executive director.

On Saturday, March 21, Ruggiero teaches students about the Impressionist movement and guide them to use watercolors and oil pencils to create artwork inspired by the work of Monet. The one-hour workshop for children age 8 and older is held at the Ice House, with two sessions available, starting at 9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. There is no charge for the class, but parents are asked to preregister their children by calling 304-258-2300.

The Youth Art Show may be seen every Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Monday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. through April 5.

Grant support for these programs comes in part from the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 204-258-2300 or visit www.macicehouse.org.