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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV  
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YOUTH ART EXHIBIT OPENS March 5, 2021

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV--The Morgan Arts Council and Morgan County schools celebrate National Youth Art Month with their annual exhibit of artwork created by local youth, showing at the Ice House in Berkeley Springs. Hiroko Rubin is the curator.

It has been an especially challenging year for both students and local art educators. Since the schools were closed to students for an extended amount of time and some students attended school remotely, our local art educators have had to be extremely creative and learn new ways to ensure that all students receive the best possible instruction and stay motivated and connected.

Given the hands-on nature of art instruction - projects with students often working closely together, sharing material and equipment under close supervision of the teacher - it has not been easy for art teachers during this period of social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures. Both teachers and students have had to adapt to this new situation. In some cases this year, the teachers have only seen their students' completed work remotely.

Historically, during times of crises, the creative spirit of children has often reached new heights. It will be fascinating to see how the COVID Pandemic has influenced the work of our local youth.

Rubin commented, "Each year I find it so rewarding to present the creative work of area school students. But it is especially important this year. Given the stressful times that we've all been facing, as well as the sometimes chaotic school situation, exhibiting the children's art this year will help to brighten the spirits of our community and show the resilience of our students and art teachers."

"It's fun to see what kids come up with every year and it will be particularly interesting to see how they're expressing themselves through their art in their new learning environment," says Thom Rubel, MAC Executive Director. "The creative process involves more basic skills than you would think and those show up in their art. And just like the kids, we've had to learn new ways to support them. We encourage everybody to come and see for themselves. It will make you smile."

The Youth Art Show may be seen every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through March 28.

Grant support for these programs comes in part from individual donors, the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes, Clay Center, Eastern WV Community Foundation, and the Tom & Virginia Seely Foundation.

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 304-258-2300 or visit [www.macicehouse.org](http://www.macicehouse.org).