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Contact Information:
Emily Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Mid-Continent Public Library
ebrown@mymcpl.org
O: 816.503.4187
M: 816.809.9630

Access Art Returns to Mid-Continent Public Library

MCPL, Nelson-Atkins, and Art Institute Collaborate on Annual Festival

Greater Kansas City, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is pleased to announce the return of its third annual Access Art festival, which this year is expanding to two separate dates and locations due to the popularity and growth of the program over the past two years—Saturday, April 8 at MCPL’s Woodneath Library Center [8900 NE Flintlock Rd., Kansas City, MO 64157] and Saturday, April 22 at its North Independence Branch [317 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64050].

Both Access Art events will last from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and will offer opportunities for art enthusiasts of all ages to express their creativity through a variety of free art workshops led by instructors from The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Kansas City Art Institute. Courses range in focus from traditional mediums such as watercolor painting and drawing to more modern applications like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

“Art provides a deep connection to who we are and how we see ourselves as people,” said Dylan Little, MCPL Community Programming Manager. “Our Access Art events are no different. We hope the whole Kansas City metro will come out to the Library and explore their own sense of expression and tap into their creativity in the process.”

Other unique Access Art courses include transforming old books into self-portraits, off-loom weaving, and mixed media printmaking. There will also be several drop-in activities held throughout the day (no registration required), including making sculptural dragon hats and creating personal pendants via metal stamping.

“The Nelson-Atkins will be at both of the Access Art events this April and will offer studio art projects designed for families, adults, and teens,” said Lisa Schlagle, Manager of Studio Programs at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. “Working with art-making processes promotes creative thinking and problem solving; the beauty is that each person arrives at something that is uniquely their own. We hope that Access Art participants will also want to make a visit to the Nelson-Atkins to experience the galleries in person.”

“KCAI’s School for Continuing and Professional Studies is thrilled to participate in the third Access Art event,” said Cambria Potter, Director of The School for Continuing and Professional Studies at the Kansas City Art Institute. “This year, students will be able to explore different mediums including drawing, printmaking, and watercolor. The all-day event is a great way for attendees to preview our courses while learning from our amazing faculty. Students of all skill levels are welcome; materials will be provided.”
In addition to creating their own works of art, attendees will have the chance to experience the creative process of other local artists firsthand as artisans display their projects and some demonstrate their skills. The artists range in craft from woodcarving and oil painting to calligraphy and cartooning. Visitors can view the artists’ work, ask questions or discuss technique, and absorb the atmosphere of unbridled creativity.

Those interested in attending and participating in Access Art are encouraged to view the full list of programs and artists and to register for specific events online at mymcpl.org/accessart.

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Access Your World

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving over 792,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.