



19th December 2010

Dear friends of eStudio 473,

It is hard to believe that it has been a full year since I embarked on this adventure: the creation of eStudio 473! I am writing you now on behalf of all of the 30 girls that have benefitted from the eStudio 473 workshops held after school at the Buen Pastor throughout 2010. First and foremost, I would like to attempt to express our elephant-sized gratitude for all of your support, both financial and emotional this past year. Personally, I want to sincerely reach out to all of you that have believed in me and in this idea. Without you, none of these wonderful developments and experiences could have been possible. Secondly, I would like to invite you to continue to be a part of eStudio 473 this coming year. This spring, I ask that you consider sponsoring a girl. For \$72 USD you can provide one girl living at the Buen Pastor the opportunity to partake in the next 12 week eStudio 473 workshop: Plasticolandia! For more information on the individual workshops and their projects, processes and goals, please view the attached course descriptions. Our goal is to have sponsors for all 30 girls by Valentine's Day (February 14th, 2011)!!

It has been such a joy to reflect upon this first year and see how much progress we have made. I have spent these past few days looking over the projects created, the processes explored and the moments and experiences shared, I am overwhelmed by what I realize has actually taken place in these workshops. Neither the girls nor I are ready to say goodbye. They are thirsty for more and I am full of energy and plans for the upcoming workshops. This time is cherished by the girls, in fact, they beg to participate everyday that I am at the Buen Pastor. The oldest girls pretend jokingly that they are in the second grade because they would prefer to join us as we paint and write, rather than gossip with their friends. It is not a complicated concept that I have created and offered, but the simplicity is rooted in something that I know now, more than ever, is absolutely needed in the lives of these girls. Creative expression is not an extra, it is fundamental on many levels. I am learning this as I read and listen to various people and studies about the correlation between cognitive development and creative activity, music and memorization as well as the importance of story and dramatic play. But the real learning for me this year has been in the field. I have seen the truth of these ideas and concepts in the girls themselves. In their own words, here are what a few of them feel they have received from eStudio 473 workshops:

"My favorite technique/project was painting my personality. What I learned is how to release my inner self, to have no fear about expressing myself and how to talk without fear and have an opinion."

Joana 12yrs (Discussing what she learned throughout her workshop experience: Identity and Relationship)

"This workshop (Identity) changed my way of thinking. Principally because it helped us realize that our thoughts are both original and creative. Also, it put us in touch with our inner selves, allowed us to bring out the people we carry within us and show who we really are. Basically, we got to know ourselves and can show how we feel without fear."

Luz 16yrs

This last year has opened doors for these girls into worlds within themselves and within their lives that they previously were not aware of. None of this could have happened without you all. So from myself and the girls, we sincerely thank you and hope you will join us in 2011 by sponsoring a girl's workshop experience. This process will only take a few moments. The support page on our site is where you will find our Pay Pal link. Please email us as well if you have any questions. Happy Holidays and best wishes for the new year!

Best,

Katie Clancy  
Director/Founder

eStudio<sub>473</sub>

Juntas para crear, jugar, pensar, expresar y desarrollar

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## HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY PURCHASES AND DONATIONS HAVE AFFORDED US THROUGHOUT 2010:

• **Nuestra Fabrica (Studio Space & Classroom):** Every artist will tell you the importance of the space in which we go to be creators and makers. With your generous and steady support we were able to generate supplies and materials necessary to start our Art Studio. In result of our dedication to class and to circumstance, the Buen Pastor has given us our very own studio space to retreat to for our class time.

• **Digital Art Studio:** Thanks to our friend, Artist and educator, Rebeca Beeman, and many of your donations, we were able to participate in the Adobe Youth Voices program. This relationship has resulted in the gift of a great Flip video camera and Adobe software on all of the computers in Buen Pastor's computer lab. In addition to our work with Adobe, we were lucky enough to have local 3D animators, Octavio Mendez Sanchez and Claudia Hernández Ascensio provided us with an introductory course to Blender, a 3D animation software. And they were generous enough to install this program on all of the computers as well!

• **Four Workshops and a Mini-Workshop & the techniques, concepts explored:**

- **Visual Journaling:** Creative Writing, Drawing, Collage, Elements of Design, creating depth with scale and value, Repetition, form and introduction to color theory
- **Digital Storytelling:** Use of digital cameras, basic photography concepts, intro to Photoshop, intro to Blender, Story telling through imagery.
- **Identity and Relationships: Portraits and Self Portraits:** Portrait process of famous North American artist, Chuck Close, Photography and portraiture, painting with acrylics, introduction to the art of stencils and continued writing component.
- **Story Play and Surrealism:** Imaginative story construction (group and individual) based on famous Surrealist paintings, color mixing-primary & secondary colors, warm vs cool colors and complementary colors, sharing of dreams and memories through drawing, painting and writing exercises.
- **Our History: Portraits and Biographies of Important Mexican Woman (mini-workshop: four weeks)**

• **Visiting Artists and Artisans:** Throughout 2010's workshops we have made an effort to invite artists from a variety of media and experience and nationality to join us. *Dylan Thomas* - a successful painter raised here in Guanajuato, schooled in New York City, *Rebeca Beeman* - Photographer, media-maker and educator, North American by birth, but a life spent growing and learning throughout Central America and Mexico. *Octavio Mendez Sanchez and Claudia Hernández Ascensio*, 3D animators and educators from Guanajuato. *Well Theatre Company and the Great wall of Books (Jodie Ahrens, Rebecca Conroy and Christie Stott)* of Melbourne Australia. *John Asbury Hunt*, Carpenter and vagabond from Austin, Texas and *Coco Callan*, a painter (muralist) from Toronto, Canada.

• **Exhibitions and Field trips:**

- **May:** during our Identity and Relationships workshop we took a fieldtrip to view the exhibition of our friend, Dylan Thomas's landscapes of Guanajuato.
- **July:** we celebrated the completion of three separate workshops by inviting the public to an exhibition of some of our best individual work as well as the unveiling of our group self portrait, inspired by Chuck Close. This mural was made to live at the Buen Pastor in the hallway where the girls live.
- **October:** the entire gang of girls living in the internado boarded a bus and took a fieldtrip to the Expo: Bicentenario de Guanajuato to view and interact with the Gran Muro de Libros. The girls that participated in the mini-workshop Our History, displayed their artwork, came in costume as their featured historical figure and were interviewed on the radio show. Their audio biographies had been previously recorded and were included in the exhibition.

• **Story Play Tools:** Throughout our fall 2010 workshop, Story Play, our main collective project has been the creation of our interactive mural (on the backside of an old chalkboard). We have also created "blueprints" for the puppet show that is now built and just waiting for us to paint it! And our oldest group of girls will be working to create the walls and roof of our casita. All three of these projects when completed this January, will live in the courtyard of the Buen Pastor and will encourage continuous exploration into story, dramatic play and cooperative, creative play.



How you can help?

This Spring eStudio 473 will be running three workshops for the 30 girls staying at the Buen Pastor. We hope for each girl to participate in a 2 hour class each week for 12 weeks. Over the next two months we are looking for individuals and groups that are interested in sponsoring a girl's workshop experience. The goal is to have every girl sponsored by Valentine's Day 2011!

SPRING WORKSHOP THEME: PLASTICOLANDIA!

Focusing on Fashion

Las Grandes (11yrs-16yrs)

This group of artists will investigate the ever-growing list of processes that reuse plastic bags and other common household waste items to create functionable and/or wearable art! We will start with a group project that will result in the creation of the roof & walls of our StoryPlay Casita! Then, in our design teams we will use this experience with fusing and reusing plastic bags to design and create our own handbags. From here we will move to a jewelry project and some lessons on figure drawing and elements of design. This knowledge will aid us in the design process. as each team works to create our final project, recycled clothing/costume.

Installation work: Landscapes of the imagination

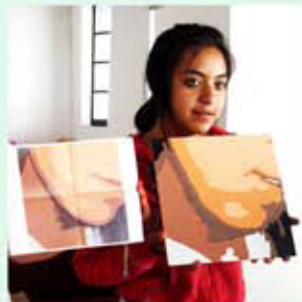
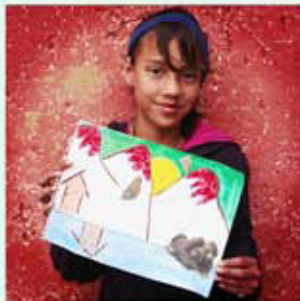
Las Medianas (8-10)

This group of artists will study the work of several influencial, contemporary artists that create installations with found objects and/or waste. We hope to invite several prolific installation artists that are based in Mexico City to visit us and share their process and inspiration with us. We would like to partner with a group of local concerned citizens attempting to raise awareness about recycling and sustainable living efforts in our city. The final project will be an installation imagined, designed and then created by the girls. And will be constructed in a plaza in el centro, with only the plastic waste that was collected in this space thorough out a specified period of time. Throughout this course we will experiment with paper-making and paper machee as well as collaborate to create our own large-scale installation piece utilizing disguardved water bottles.

Project Re-construct

Las Chicas (5-7yrs)

The youngest of our artists will examine a multitude of artistic processes that examine new purposes for paper waste, styrofoam & other disguardved items like ripped or stained clothing and broken plastic toys for example! Some processes included are: Paper making, print making, and puppet/robot making!





# What is the process?

## HOW DO YOU BECOME AN ESTUDIO 473 SPONSOR?

It's fast and easy...



### Step 1: Make your contribution

Visit our blog : [www.studio473.wordpress.com](http://www.studio473.wordpress.com) - Look for the Donate/PayPal button in the side bar. Please PayPal us \$72 USD (this list is also located under Support)!

### Step 2: Send us your info, please!

Please shoot us an email with your name and street address. If this is a gift and you would like the sponsorship to be made in someone else's name, please use their name and address instead of your own. (estudio473@gmail.com)

### Step 3: Confirmation Process

What should expect to receive from us after the sponsorship is successfully made?

First, we will promptly send you an email confirming the transaction. There will be a Certificate of Sponsorship included in this message. Your name or the name in which you have made the sponsorship will be on the certificate.

Second, in the mail, you will receive this thank you gift:

1. A 5x7 Portrait of the girl you have sponsored
2. A 5x7 print of her artwork
3. A personal message from her to you

(This can be expected to arrive in mid to late February)

Third, follow our progress and your girl's participation here on our blog entries!

