

## ARTWORXX ARTISTS

Margaret Carpenter-Dove	Abby Gerstein
Amanda Carter	Lizzie Kendler
Angela Fernandez- Ayala	Megan Kenney
Sydney Finch	Jenna Ortaleva
Emily Gauthier	Amanda Osenbach
Olivia Garry	Andrea Simchak
	Bethany Virshup

## SPECIAL THANKS

Kathy Koenig, Director of the Initiative for Girls & Women with ASDs, Yale Child Study Center

Linda Friedlaender, Senior Curator of Education  
Jaime Ursic, Assistant Curator of Education  
Yale Center for British Art

Tina Menchetti, Art Director, Chapel Haven

Bailey Bruce, Art Teacher, Irving Elementary  
School, Derby, CT

Melody Oliphant, Postgraduate Associate, Yale  
Child Study Center

MacKenzye Smith, Yale College, Class of 2018

Deborah Monti, Yale College, Class of 2019

### **INITIATIVE FOR GIRLS & WOMEN WITH ASD**

Yale Child Study Center  
230 South Frontage Road, New Haven, CT  
[www.childstudycenter.yale.edu/autism/  
clinical\\_services/initiative/](http://www.childstudycenter.yale.edu/autism/clinical_services/initiative/)

# ARTWORXX: A CREATIVE COLLABORATION THE YALE CHILD STUDY CENTER & YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART



**ARTWORKS ON VIEW MAY 15 – 22, 2016**  
**OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, MAY 15, 1:00PM**

Yale Center for British Art Docent Room  
1080 Chapel St., New Haven, CT  
12:00 – 5:00pm | Closed Mondays  
<http://britishart.yale.edu/>

# ARTWORXX: A CREATIVE ART EXPLORATION BY YOUNG WOMEN WITH ASD

## THE PROCESS

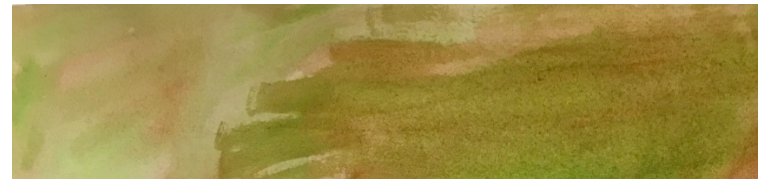
Beginning January 2015, the participating young women have been creating artworks two times a month with artists, Jaime Ursic, Tina Menchetti, & Bailey Bruce. Drawing from observation and their imagination, participants created landscapes, still lifes, and abstract works of art. Looking at British and International artists, participants were inspired by George Stubbs, Bridget Riley, JMW Turner, Georges Seurat, Wassily Kandinsky, Wayne Thiebaud, among others. Explored art techniques included charcoal, acrylic and water-based paints, pastels, and inks.

## THE RATIONALE

Individuals with autism spectrum disorders may struggle to communicate in diverse contexts. Formal intervention to promote development of expressive communication often ceases by the teen years, leaving those with ASD to struggle for the rest of their lives with a finite set of communication tools. Since many with ASD are visual learners, visual models support further development of expressive communication.

## EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

Research supports the view that verbal expression can be enhanced through the process of looking at art, describing artworks, and creating art. Visual literacy, defined as the ability to discern meaning in visual images and models, is a critical skill for interpreting the world. Close looking and objectively describing works of art has been shown to improve one's ability to develop a greater understanding of the art, which supports expressing ideas through one's own creative project. Cumulative experience improves this skill.



**KATHY KOENIG** is the Director of the Initiative for Girls & Women with Autism Spectrum Disorders at the Child Study Center. Her research helps children improve their ability to participate meaningful social interactions. She has published on gender differences in ASDs and the growth trajectory of girls who are diagnosed with ASD. This

program, supported by a gift from Marilyn and Jim Simons, seeks to support social and recreational opportunities for girls and women who might otherwise struggle to find social and creative outlets.



**JAIME URSIC** is Assistant Curator of Education at the Yale Center for British Art. She teaches gallery and studio programs, teaches "*Exploring Artism*," a program for families with a child on the autism spectrum, and "*Out to Art*" with students from Chapel Haven. She has worked as a teaching artist at the J. Paul Getty Museum and Villa, Los

Angeles County Museum of Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, and Guggenheim Hermitage. Her artwork has been exhibited throughout the US and Europe. She shows locally with Artspace and KLG.

## THE PROGRAM

ARTWORXX is inspired by the Yale Center for British Art's *Exploring Artism*, a free program for families with children who are five to twelve years of age and on the autism spectrum. Participants learn to look and respond to artwork in the museum's galleries, engage in group conversations, and complete a follow-up art-making project in a museum classroom.