



Fall & Winter News

"The gift of art is a gift of love"



Guatemala - 2018



When you bring 26 wonderful, giving, and talented people together, magic seems to happen all by itself.

Art Can Change The World!

by Victoria Lindstrom

When Kevin Macpherson – Founder of Art Ambassador For A Colorful World, met Leslie Baer-Dinkel – Executive Director of Xela AID, the seed for an extraordinary collaboration was formed. While Kevin's non-profit organization seeks to enable children to blossom through art in remote locations around the globe, Leslie and Xela AID have been empowering the Mayan people of the Guatemalan Highlands for twenty-six years through education, job opportunities, & health care.

Kevin Macpherson chats with locals in Antigua, Guatemala



The first week of November, 2018, they joined forces and embarked on their inaugural group trip, taking with them twenty-six artists, and art enthusiasts, to Guatemala for ten remarkable days of art and service. When the artists weren't painting a 17th century church or photographing Mayan women in a colorful village market - they were delivering chickens with their coops to needy families, or rescuing a mother and her children from domestic abuse - and setting them up in a "new" house, new school, and new job!



In the words of many of the artists the trip was “life-changing, humbling, and extraordinary.”

In addition to the humanitarian element of the trip, the beauty of the World UNESCO Heritage Site of Antigua was breathtaking, as was as Lake Atitlan in Jaibalito. Both spectacular locations, as well as Quetzaltenango (“Xela”) and the nearby quaint village of San Martin where the Xela AID Center is located, offered the artists endless opportunities to compose exquisite paintings.



Arco de Santa Catalina



Lago de Atitlan

According to Kevin Macpherson and Leslie Baer - Dinkel the trip was a wonderful success; the art ambassadors definitely experienced the concept that “art can change the world.”



Kevin Macpherson, Anne Wickham Smith, with children and artists.



Consequently, another joint trip to Guatemala has already been scheduled for November 2019. If you are interested, or would like to learn more, check out the links below:

<http://www.artambassador.org>

<https://xelaaid.org>

The Art Ambassador Outdoor Plein Air Studio takes shape!

Also in San Martin, Xela AID has undertaken construction of a three-story building for the purpose of Montessori and public preschool classrooms, plus space for tutoring, literacy, leadership training, and an expanded computer laboratory. The rooftop space is where the open air studio will be located featuring 360° views of the beautiful hillsides and village of San Martin. There will be additional studio space, a gallery, and storage for supplies. This undertaking for Art Ambassador For A Colorful World has required a significant pledge of \$50,000.

It is their hope to have the residential Xela Inn ready for occupancy by November 2019, when the next Art Ambassador Artist’s trip is planned.



Mel Dinkel (COO/Treasure - Xela AID) discusses the progress and future plans for the building with our trip’s guests.

Art Ambassador welcomes two new board members!

We are delighted to announce the addition of two new members on our Board of Directors.

Both Lori Putnam and Debbie Bruce attended our most recent trip to Guatemala. Their experiences on this trip were very impressive. Lori even said the trip was "life changing" for her. Debbie was equally impressed and came away feeling "humbled".

Internationally recognized for her expressive brushwork, contemporary compositions, and intelligent use of color, Nashville, Tennessee native, and award winning Lori Putnam paints small to medium-sized works en plein air and creates large paintings in her studio.



The thing that struck us the most on this trip was Lori's incredible enthusiasm and excitement. She called it "the trip of a lifetime".



Since Debbie Bruce and her husband Jim live in Tiger, GA it seems fitting that she too is a tiger in her own way. Besides being a talented artist, Debbie has demonstrated a loving and compassionate connection with children. We have also found Debbie to be

dedicated, motivated, and with a lot of vigor. She is looking forward to making a significant contribution to Art Ambassador, no matter what challenges we send her way.

"We are so fortunate to have Debbie and Lori join our team of art ambassadors. Their spirit fills a room with joy. They epitomize the qualities we look for in an art ambassador. Sharing our gifts with less fortunate using inspiration of art to communicate our friendship and sense of world community. Art has the power to change lives one brush stroke at a time. They will add a great dimension to our board."

Thank you,

Kevin Macpherson

While supplies last!

We have a limited number of these informative and unique gift ideas.

The story about the creation of Art Ambassador For A Colorful World. This nine-minute DVD tracks the beginning of the organization - "From an idea to reality". It is colorful, informative, beautiful scenes, and lovely music and watch Kevin and other paint.



We are also offering you this attractive pin (1" diameter) for you to wear on your cap or apron to proudly show your support of our group.

These can be yours for a minimum tax deductible donation of \$25.00 for each item. If you are interested in a purchase, please send an email to: jack_vogler@yahoo.com, and he will take care of the rest.

And as always, another BIG thank-you to our generous supporters!

We will never quit saying thank-you for your generous supporter! Without it we would be unable to do what we do.

This year's biggest challenge is funding our Plein Air Studio in Guatemala along with our partners at Xela AID. We are committed to a total of \$50,000 to fully fund our project. The studio promises to be an outstanding destination for our fellow artists, and the community of San Martin Chiquito.

Please see our website to see how easy it is for you to assist us for the future.

Our website address: www.artambassador.org



If you have questions, comments, or want more information about Art Ambassador For A Colorful World, please feel free to contact:

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