



Dear School Coordinator

Welcome to Private Picassos! We are a unique program that brings the best of the art studio to you. Private Picassos believes that everyone is an artist and can create beautiful, interesting artwork when given the correct tools.

We offer a variety of art education programs throughout New York City and would love to offer our unique program to the students of your institution. Included in this packet is information about our current collaborations, class descriptions, sample curriculums and our teaching philosophies for all of our programs.

We look forward to working with you and your students!

Sincerely,

Valeen Parubchenko
Founder/Director
Private Picassos



Private Picassos' Current School Collaborations

We currently partner with the following schools around New York City. Whether a part of their school day activities or their after-school programming, PP has integrated itself into the educational lives of the students at each of these facilities.

- *Dillon Child Study Center* Private Pre and Elementary School in Ft. Greene, Brooklyn
- *Hudson's House* Private Pre-School in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn
- *Parker's Place* Private Pre-School in Park Slope, Brooklyn
- *PS 11* in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn
- *PS 154* in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn
- *Rory's Room* Private Pre-School in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn

At PS 11, PS 154 and Dillon Center we currently offer weekly after-school classes for kids between the age of 3 and 9. Each of our classes focuses on a specific theme that is chosen by the school. Current themes include *Art Around the World* and *Recycled Art* (see full descriptions of each theme later in this packet).

At Hudson's House, Parker's Place and Rory's Room, we offer bi-weekly art classes that take place during the school day. Projects range from recycled collagraph printmaking to black and white large scale silhouettes. We occasionally focus on a monthly theme that follows an ongoing theme with the school curriculum. Previous monthly themes include *fine artists explorations* (Frida Kahlo-inspired self-portraits, Jackson Pollock splatter paintings, Alexander Calder circus sculptures), *favorite children's literature* (Eric Carle inspired printmaking explorations, *The Courage of Blue Boy* colors explorations, *The Big Bug Surprise* insect sculptures) and outer space (papier mache rocket ships and planets, space drawings using wet and dry chalk).

Class Descriptions and Sample Curriculums

Included below are descriptions for each of the theme classes we have offered in the past. Most of these classes can be modified to work with a variety of ages.

Mommy & Me Art Class

This class focuses on a different primary or secondary color each session and include three main activities: drawing, collage and painting or sculpture. Most materials used in this class will be homemade, with all activities specifically designed for younger children who are still exploring materials through their mouths.

Creative Movement

In collaboration with three cooperative parents' groups, Private Picassos has branched out to lead interactive classes for students age 18 months – 3 years. Students engage in theme-oriented art projects, story time, music, movement and sensory explorations. Classes are held in conjunction with *The Flying Tricycle Preschool Cooperative* at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange in Park Slope, a private parents' cooperative at the Brooklyn Dojo in Brooklyn Heights and private parents' cooperative held in students' homes in Dumbo.

Triangles, Squares and Circles, Oh My!

Young artists will explore shapes, color and strengthen their fine motor skills through a variety of 2 & 3 dimensional mediums. By focusing on a specific color or theme each session, children will build their skills with drawing, collage, painting and small-scale sculpture.

Toddler Art Adventures

Budding toddler artists will explore paint, crayons, oil pastels, collage materials, air-dry clay and recycled sculpture in this process-oriented art class. Each class will feature a unique theme, which all three main activities will focus on, such as NYC, Outer space, Animals, Opposites and much more. This class is a great introduction to a structured class for young artists and will help strengthen their fine motor skills and ability to represent the world around them.

Let's Look in our Favorite Book

Young artists will read a different children's book each session and then complete a related art activity. Books and activities include *Leonardo the Terrible Monster* monster collages, *A Big Bug Surprise* insect sculptures, *Alexander and the No Good, Very Bad Day* printmaking and much more.

Art Around the World

Young artists will travel around the world on an artistic journey, exploring 2 and 3-D multi-cultural art activities, including Mexican frescos, Japanese scroll paintings and American quilt creation.

Art Safari

Young artists will explore the wild kingdom through animal-inspired art activities. Possible projects include papier mache dinosaur eggs, caterpillar accordion books, shoe rubbing fish creation and much more.

Matisse, Monet and me

Budding Picassos will get inspiration for their artwork by looking at the work of fine artists. Activities include Andy Goldsworthy-inspired nature sculptures, Kandinsky music painting, Haring-inspired murals and much more!

Recycled Art

Young artists will use a variety of recycled materials to create two and three dimensional artwork. Projects include: junk printmaking, recycled robot creation, paper making, city creation and much more.

Zip, Zap, Zoom: Comics for Kids

Budding comic artists and enthusiasts will learn the basics to create their own comic book through hands on activities and explorations of contemporary comic artists.

Build it Big

Young artists will create large-scale and communal artwork, using a variety of two and three-dimensional materials. Activities include recycled robots, New York City panoramas and Jackson Pollock splatter paintings.

Let's Make Art Together

Young artists will work together with their older or younger siblings in a collaborative art environment. Students will complete open-ended projects based on a weekly theme, such as *Outer Space Group Murals*, *Fine Artist Explorations* and *Underwater Mixed-Media Projects*. Parent or caregiver participation is requested

All About Me

Young artists will carefully look at themselves and the world around them through a variety of two and three dimensional art activities. Projects will focus around self and family portraits, as well as artists who explore similar themes, such as Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol and many more.

Sample Curriculum

Included below are two sample curriculums for our most popular classes/themes. If you'd like to see a proposal of what we could offer your students, please let us know.

Toddler Art Adventures (2-4 years)

Opposites

- drawings with white chalk on black paper, followed by black markers and crayons on white paper

- collages with a variety of white and gray materials on black construction paper
- play *Red Light, Green Light*
- Paintings using white and black washable tempera paint on thick bristol board
- Reading of *Olivia's Opposites*

Art Around the World (4-7 years)

Trip to Barcelona - Gaudi-inspired City Creation

- Discussion about Gaudi's unique architecture in Barcelona, Spain (show examples)
- Create own city using recycled paper towel rolls (either pre-cut or have kids cut them), glued onto cardboard bases and then decorated with markers, oil pastels, crayons and colored pencils
- Stamp passports (accordion books previously made to document our imaginary travels around the world)

Private Picassos' History and Method

By Valeen Parubchenko, Founder of Private Picassos

According to published research, art can increase fine motor skills, reading and writing ability, and verbal and visual vocabulary. But there are also benefits outside the edges of your child's paper that can help measure the importance of their experience.

Art not only increases their skill level and artistic ability, but also their confidence as artists and human beings. Children who are exposed to the arts at a young age are more likely to try new things, go outside the lines when problem solving, and eloquently express themselves visually and verbally, according to Elliot Eisner in his book *Ten Lessons the Arts Teach*.

At the core of all of our programs is an emphasis and exploration of the fine arts. Using fine art materials and methods, as well as examples of fine artists' work as inspiration, we are able to offer motivation for our students' artwork without directly influencing their final product.

Whether your child is experiencing art one-on-one with an instructor in their home or in a small, public group art class, they are encouraged to engage in creative collaborations with new people and express themselves to a broad range of listeners. The social interactions and highly personal expressions that coincide with creating artwork with and then explaining that artwork to someone else are also fundamental lessons that children learn through out their formative years.

A cornerstone in our curriculums is attention to the artistic level of each of our students. Although each student works at their own pace, most children develop artistically in the following manner (as noted by Viktor Lowenfeld in his book *Creative and Mental Growth*). We keep the following stages in mind when developing our curriculums:

- 2-4 years old: children respond to the world around them by scribbling with different drawing materials, working on their fine motor skills
- 4 - 7 years old: children respond to the world around them by drawing shapes and stick figures, using some recognizable imagery, as well as exaggerated imagery to express interest in their subject
- 7 - 9 years old: schematic, recognizable imagery appears, as well as a base line to show the horizon and a double baseline to show distance
- 9 - 12 years old: fold over spatial representation appears, as well as overlapping to show distance, interest in realism
- 12 -13 years old: interest in the conceptual aspects of art and expressing oneself

With each of our lessons specifically designed to introduce or develop a new skill, method or theme, children thus progress naturally onto the next phase once they have mastered those that came before.

Another factor in encouraging this progression is small class size. All of our programs have a maximum of 10 students, with most programs for children under the age of 4 working with two instructors per class. Keeping a small class size allows one on one instruction with the teacher for each student, as well as more social interactions and relationships between our students.

I started Private Picassos because I was frustrated with the lack of focus and attention in the arts at many public and private institutions. Also, the overwhelming obsession at these institutions with “adult influenced” artwork, where no expression or creativity of the child was reflected, was also a source of disappointment. This led me to create a unique program that focuses on each student’s skill level, interests, goals, and artistic mind.

Private Picassos believes that everyone is an artist and can create beautiful, interesting artwork when given the correct tools. We constantly remind even our youngest students that even though they want to become an artist when they grow up, they are already artists, as is evident in their distinctive artwork.