



NEWS

SUMMER 2023

CATA artists in *LIVING* COLOR!



**Don't miss the vibrant work
of CATA artists like Peter
in our Annual Art Show!**



You're bringing CATA's biggest* art show to life!

*Really BIG!
200+ pieces by
CATA artists!

CATA artist Pat puts the last brush strokes on her painting. She moves her wheelchair back and studies the canvas. "I'll title it *Raspberry Beret*," she decides. "Like the Prince song!"

The next time Pat sees her painting, it will be framed and hanging in a gallery for CATA's Annual Art Show *I Am a Part of Art*—thanks to you!

"I'm glad people appreciate my art and see the beauty in it," says Pat. "Painting is an extension of myself. It shares my personality."

"CATA's Annual Art Show is a kaleidoscope of creativity," says Margaret Keller, CATA Executive Director. "It's the culmination of a year of workshops where artists with disabilities explore their talents in painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, and more. Your support makes these programs possible, plain and simple."

"If you've never been to a CATA art show, get ready to be blown away!" adds Margaret.

"You'll see work by CATA artists from across the community: Eye-catching pastel drawings by students from Pittsfield High School. Vivid watercolor paintings by adults with disabilities from BFAIR in North Adams. Stained glass paintings by CATA artists from Columbia County Arc. And so much more!"

CATA artist Grace (BCArc) poses with her painting "Animal Chaos" (top) at the Clark Art Institute

Because of your generosity, thousands of art lovers will enjoy the work of CATA artists all summer in our exhibits at the Clark Art Institute and Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. *And they can even take the art home!*

"Artwork is available for sale and the artists earn a commission for every piece sold," says Kara Smith, CATA Program Director. "It's a great way to brighten up your home or office while making a difference at the same time. CATA artists take a lot of pride in selling their work."

But don't wait!—"Artwork sells fast. Our exhibits are an exciting flurry of art lovers vying for their favorite piece. They're not to be missed!"

Tre (BFAIR) will see his artwork on display at the Clark Art Institute this summer—thanks to you!



You're invited to CATA's Annual Art Show "I Am a Part of Art"

CATA's Annual Art Show features over 200 paintings, drawings, and sculptures by artists with disabilities. You can see this vibrant exhibit at **two locations**—and it's **FREE** to visit!

LICHTENSTEIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celebration: Wednesday, July 12 • 5-7pm

Exhibit: June 30 - August 23, 2023

Hours: W-F 11am-3pm & by appt. | 28 Renne Ave, Pittsfield

CLARK ART INSTITUTE Lunder Center at Stone Hill

Meet the Artists: Tuesday, August 22 • 1-3pm

Exhibit: July 15 - October 29, 2023

Hours: Daily 10am-5pm | 227 South St, Williamstown

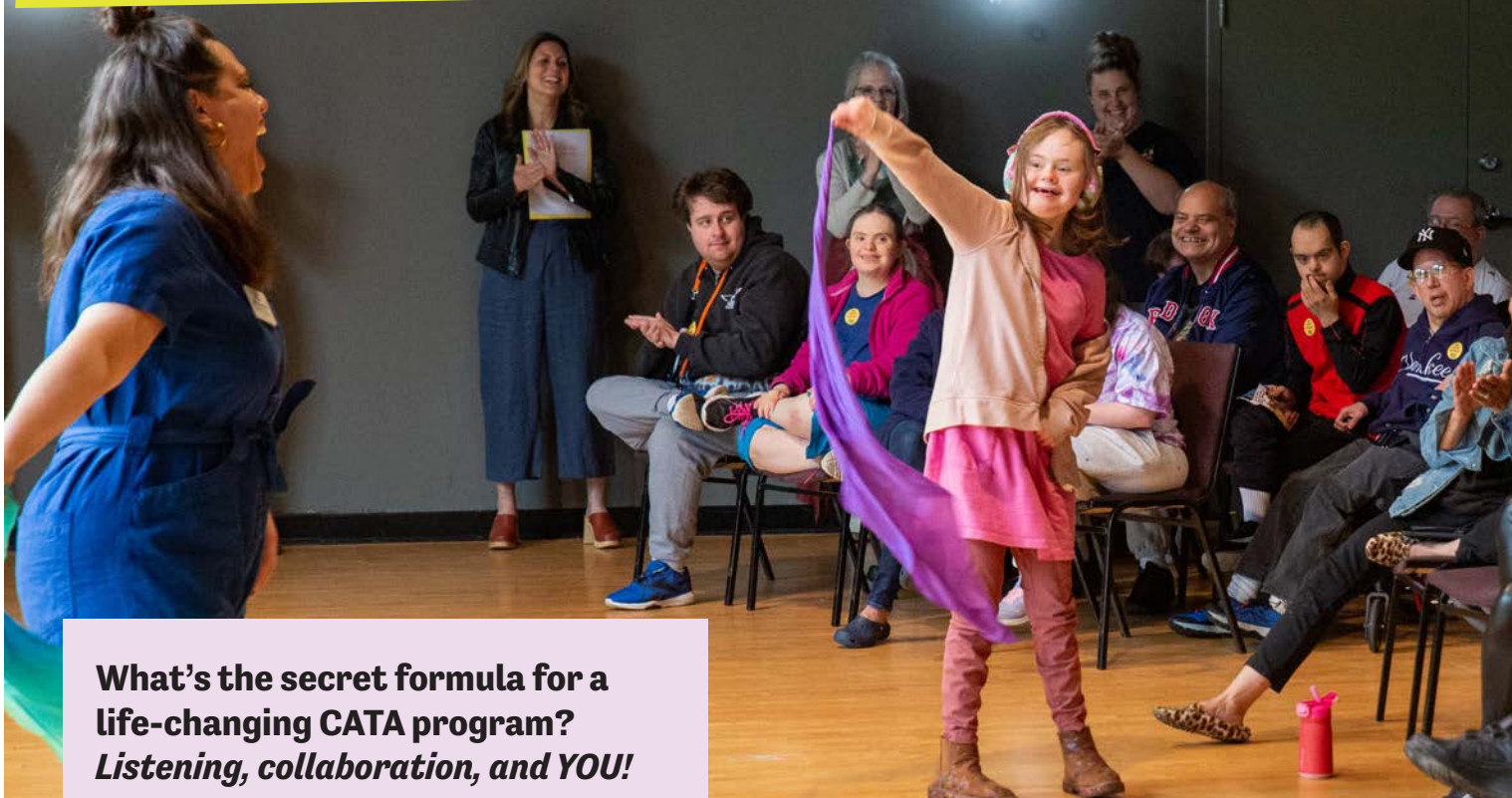


Visit CATAArts.org/iapoa2023 for more info (or use the QR code!)

I Am a Part of Art is sponsored by October Mountain Financial Advisors, Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation, Berkshire Magazine, Frames on Wheels, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and supporters like YOU!

Rory (above) shows off his painting at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. YOU make our exhibits possible!

Your peek into **What's NEW** at CATA!



What's the secret formula for a life-changing CATA program?
Listening, collaboration, and YOU!

All year, we ask CATA artists, families, and partners to share opportunities they're craving. We work together to create programs that meet their needs and interests. **And your support makes it happen.**

Here are a few of the new programs we're piloting—thanks to you:

New art forms:

"I capture the beauty of the world in my art" - CATA artists follow a trail along the Housatonic Flats. When a bright red leaf catches Brittini's eye, she holds up the camera on an iPad, capturing the scene just the way she sees it. New programs in photography, songwriting, dance, and theater are giving CATA artists more ways to share their creativity.

Grace shares her talents at a CATA Sharing—thanks to you!

Adaptive Art Classes:

"My art captures your imagination" -

At a program for adults with traumatic brain injuries, Carol points to a shade of red on a color wheel. Pat, a faculty artist, mixes the color and Carol guides her hand to move the brush across the canvas. New, adaptive art-making programs are tailored to meet the needs of every artist.

Sensory-friendly Classes:

"We all dance as equals" - Uly and Cathy move colorful scarves through the air, creating gentle dance movements that express their personality. For artists on the autism spectrum or those who prefer a quieter space, our new sensory-friendly classes offer a way for every CATA artist to let their creativity fly.



Your support is fueling new programs and pilots where CATA artists express themselves and build community.

Sharings:

"Wawanko, Sikolaiko" - Anthony and Karlie keep the beat on djembe drums, playing a traditional West African song. When they play the final beat, a crowd of CATA artists, caregivers, and friends erupts in cheers. At CATA "Sharings," artists with disabilities share what they're learning in CATA workshops.

Free summer programs:

"My true self shines through" - Michelle puts the final touches on a self-portrait painting. Nearby, Laurie and Ethan use their imagination to act out a scene from a story they've written together. Free summer arts workshops are giving CATA artists an outlet for their creativity.

CATA in the Classroom:

"Reach up, up, UP...and release!" - At Pittsfield High School, students relieve tension and practice balance in a yoga class. Summer arts programs in local public schools have grown! Over 200 children and teens with disabilities are enjoying yoga, dance, juggling, and music this summer.

Create & Restore:

"The most relaxed I've felt in a long time" - Children with disabilities mix watercolors to create their own work of art. Nearby, their parents settle in for a gentle yoga class. Our new "Create & Restore" program relieves stress and builds connection for families caring for young people with disabilities.

Want to learn more about CATA workshops? Prospective CATA artists, families, and caregivers can learn about our programs and start signing up by calling (413) 528-5485 or visit CATAarts.org!

CATA supporters Mindi Morin & Max Scherff:

“CATA is what the Berkshires is all about”

When they came to the Berkshires in 2016, Mindi Morin, Managing Director at Canyon Ranch, and Max Scherff, Vice President of Hospitality at Mill Town Capital, were eager to settle and build lasting roots. When they discovered CATA, they knew they'd found their community.

“CATA epitomizes what the Berkshires is all about—that every person’s talents are appreciated,” say Mindi and Max. “CATA gave us a sense right away of what this community stands for.”

Now, Mindi and Max are CATA superfans. After becoming donors, they joined the Gala Committee—and then Mindi joined the board.

“CATA is so easy to get behind because their work impacts so many people. We want to do as much as we can to keep this great organization thriving.”

“CATA is a very nimble, agile organization,” says Mindi. “They know that things are ever changing, so they’re always listening to the needs of the community and responding to what they’re hearing.”

When Max was growing up, he saw first-hand how people with disabilities didn’t always have access to meaningful opportunities. That makes him appreciate CATA’s work even more.



“People with disabilities are treated with dignity at CATA— and that means a lot. We love being together with the artists at CATA events, seeing their pride in what they’ve created.”

“After an event, it’s so cool to recognize the artists out in the community and be able to say ‘I saw you on stage!’ It makes us all feel part of the larger community.”

Mindi is especially amazed by CATA’s reach in the community. “When you hear about all the places CATA goes—to day programs, schools, residences, and all over—the impact is just amazing. And it’s growing.”

“It’s one thing to hear about CATA and another to see it in action. When we make a gift, we know it’s paying for an art class or a music lesson happening *right now*. Then, we see the artists and their work at a gallery or performance and **it all comes full circle**. We’re helping to make this happen. It’s an amazing feeling.”

Join Mindi & Max and make a gift to support the talents of CATA artists.

What CATA artists LOVE about exhibiting their art:



“You can’t keep your talent inside of you. You have to let it out.”
- Corinne (BFAIR)



“My art deserves to be shown. It’s bright and bold—and captures your imagination.”
- John (BCArc Nu-Opps)



WOW!
You made our Gala & Annual Performance a BIG success!

We are so grateful to everyone who celebrated the talents of CATA artists with us at our Gala & Annual Performance. CATA artists shined on stage in show-stopping performances— and our community came together for a magical weekend in support of art and inclusion.

CATA artist Roman summed it up best:
“This was the best night of my life!”

Your generosity at our gala will fuel life-changing workshops for CATA artists through the summer and fall.
Thank you!





Your support in action

Here's how YOU are making a difference for CATA artists right now!

SUMMER ARTS WORKSHOPS:

Your gifts are fueling inclusive arts workshops for CATA artists in dance, acting, music, portrait painting, and illustration—offered free of charge, thanks to you!

SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS WITH DISABILITIES:

You're bringing CATA programs to more than 200 students in summer programs at local public schools.

CATA ANNUAL ART SHOW:

You're shining a light on the talents of CATA artists through exhibits at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts and Clark Art Institute. *(See inside for more!)*

Save the Date!

CATA Poetry Reading at The Mount

Join us for an exciting reading of poetry and prose from the CATA Writers' Workshop!

September 20, 2023 from 5-7pm (FREE)
The Mount, Edith Wharton's Home • Lenox, MA

RSVP's required. Email Kate@CATAarts.org or call (413) 528-5485.



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