



NEWS

SUMMER 2024

**CATA artists
take their talents
to new heights!**



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

CATA's Inclusive Art Show!

YOU make it possible.

In the CATA studio, artist Katrina Couture puts the final touches on her painting. Sunlight streams onto her canvas, illuminating beautiful layers of blue, purple, and green.

Katrina uses A.R.T., an adaptive technique for artists with significant physical disabilities, and works with a trained Faculty Artist “tracker” to bring her paintings to life. “That’s it,” says Katrina, with a last swoop of the brush. “It’s done!”

Thanks to your support, the next time Katrina sees her painting it will be beautifully framed and hanging in a gallery for CATA’s Annual Art Show *I Am a Part of Art*— where thousands of art lovers will enjoy it.

“I love painting and mixing all different colors,” says Katrina. “I’m happy when people see my paintings. It makes me feel proud.”

Katrina is one of hundreds of CATA artists across the community who are expressing themselves in CATA programs in painting, drawing, sculpture, and more.

“*I Am a Part of Art* is bursting with vibrant and expressive artwork,” says Margaret Keller, CATA Executive Director. “It’s the culmination of a year of workshops where CATA artists explore their talents and share their unique perspectives. Your support makes these programs possible.”

CATA’s Annual Art Show features over 200 works of art at two locations: the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown and the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts in Pittsfield.

Curating an exhibit of this size takes many hands. CATA Program Director Kara Smith leads the process, reviewing over 1,500 works by CATA artists from across Berkshire County, MA and Columbia County, NY.

“This year, CATA artist Sam Pelletz joined us in a new role as a Curatorial Assistant, helping select the 200 pieces that would be included in this year’s exhibit,” says Kara.

Visitors will be treated to stunning work by CATA artists of all ages: Watercolor paintings by artists from the BFAIR Day Habilitation Program in North Adams. Mixed-media collages by students from Pittsfield High School. Photography by young adults from BCARC Transitions Program. Tempera drawings by artists from Columbia County Arc. Even comics and stop-motion animation by artists at our Great Barrington studios.

One of the most exciting parts of the exhibit: Artwork is for sale and CATA artists earn a commission for each work sold!

“Buying CATA art is a great way to brighten up your home or office and make a difference at the same time,” says Margaret Keller. “But don’t wait! Our exhibits and ‘Meet the Artists’ events attract flurries of art lovers vying to take home their favorite works.”

CATA artist John Chapdelaine, from BCARC Nu-Opps Brain Injury Program, sums up the feeling of selling your artwork: “Ecstatic!”

“I feel proud,” says John. “CATA has helped get my art out there. Some people have bought several of my paintings. I have fans!”

You’re invited!
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. Visit our vibrant exhibit for **FREE** at **two locations**:

LICHTENSTEIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celebration: Thurs, July 11 • 4-6pm

Exhibit: July 5 - August 20, 2024

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

CLARK ART INSTITUTE
Lunder Center at Stone Hill

Exhibit: May 24 - September 22, 2024

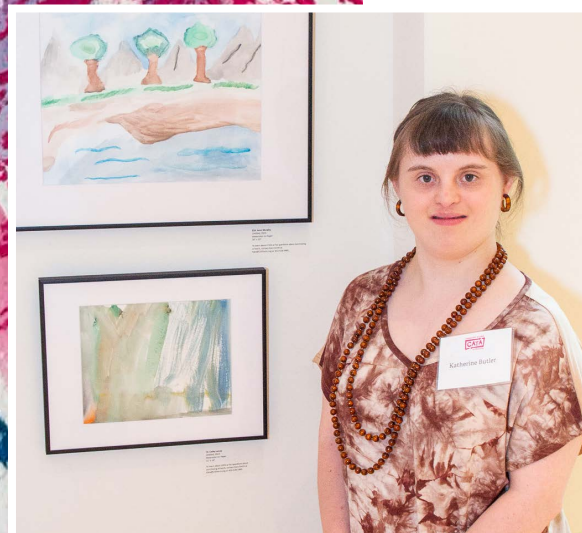
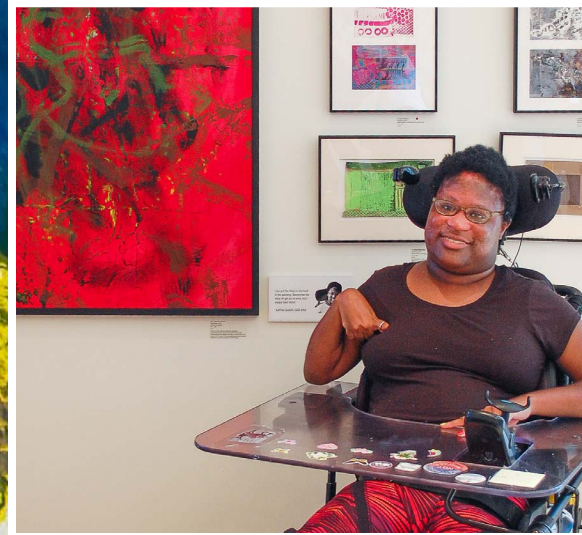
Meet the Artists: Tuesday, August 20 • 1-3pm

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



Visit CATAArts.org/iapoa2024 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!



Don't miss the work of CATA artists like Katrina, Ed (BFAIR Day Habilitation Program), and Katherine (UCP of Western MA) in our Annual Art Show!

Marshall (Leander House) shares his artwork at the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. You make our exhibits possible!



YOU are supporting new pilots where artists with disabilities thrive!

What is the secret ingredient to CATA's life-changing arts workshops? YOU! Here's a peek at new pilots and programs you're making possible for CATA artists through your gifts:

CATA Advisor & Ambassador Council

In our new Advisor & Ambassador Council, CATA artists, families, caregivers, and program partners take on paid leadership roles, sharing feedback and ideas to guide CATA's work in the community.

Supported Studio Pilot Program

Laurie sketches a scene of her family at the beach— part of a growing collection of paintings she is creating in our new Supported Studio pilot program. Here, artists eager to take their creative growth to the next level work on their own projects with the support of a CATA Faculty mentor.

Programs for Families & Children

In the CATA art studio, young children with special needs and their siblings enjoy fun arts activities while their parents and caregivers enjoy tea and treats. Our new "Art & Tea" program is giving families an outlet to relax and build community in a welcoming space.

New Workshops

At the CTSB-TV studio, CATA artists in our photography workshop explore the ins and outs of filmmaking—creating their own video and even helping film and edit our Annual Performance! New programs in photography, costume and set design, and comic illustration are giving CATA artists more ways to tap into their talents.

In the Schools: More Summer Programs

CATA is providing more arts programs in public schools than ever before—even in the summer! 300 children and teens with special needs are enjoying workshops in yoga, acting, dance, and music as part of their summer school programs.

Photos (this page):

Emilee (BFAIR) co-leads a theater activity with CATA Program Director Kelly Gavin; Laurie (Cadmus) follows her passion for painting in our Supported Studio pilot program; Izzy and Kyle (BCArc Transitions) serve as CATA Ambassadors at our Annual Performance

Leadership Roles for CATA Artists

At the Clark Art Institute, CATA artist Eric Schumann leads a 6th grade class on a tour of CATA's Annual Art Show— answering questions and sharing his perspective. Your support is helping create leadership opportunities for CATA artists as Faculty Assistants, Curatorial Assistants, and ambassadors at CATA events.

Guest Artists

Moussa "Bolokada" Conde, a master drummer and cultural ambassador of the Malinke people of Guinea, West Africa, teaches CATA drummers a rhythm on the djembe drum. CATA artist Asa improvises a solo, beaming with pride as everyone applauds. Your gifts are bringing renowned dancers, drummers, writers, and artists to share their talents with our artists.

CATA Pilot Programs have been made possible by:

Stephanie Gittleman, Marian Godfrey, Carol & Michael Riordan, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, GKV Charitable Foundation, and Barr Foundation & The Klarman Family Foundation through the Barr-Klarman Massachusetts Arts Initiative— **and YOU, our generous CATA donors!**

Photos (this page):

Max (ExtraSpecialTeas) helps film our Annual Performance using skills he learned in our Photography & Filmmaking workshop; Guest Artist Bolokada Conde shares music from West Africa in a CATA drumming workshop.

Your Support in Action

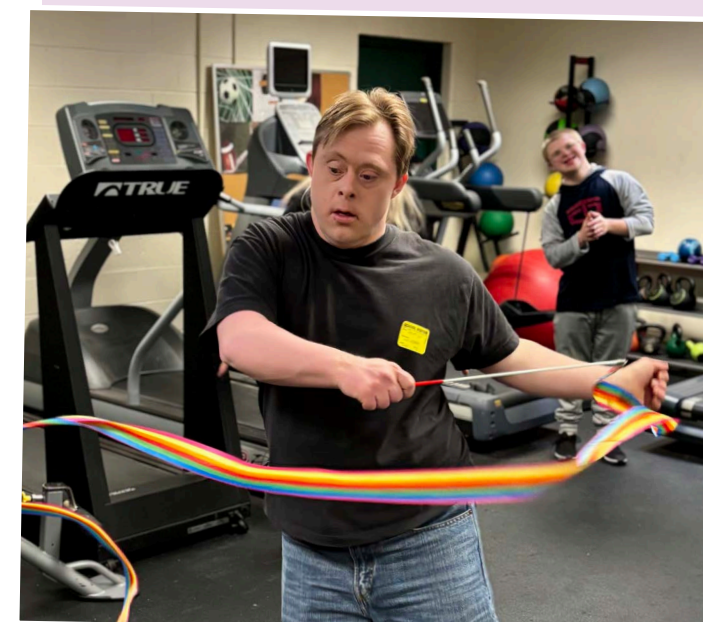
CATA Artist Dan Waite takes on New Role as Faculty Assistant

Dan Waite has tapped into his talents at CATA for years as an actor, dancer, juggler, and more. Now, he's taken a big step into a new role: Faculty Assistant. Every Tuesday this spring, Dan joined faculty artist Beth Liebowitz to help co-lead a dance workshop for special education students at Lee High School.

"It was beyond anything you could imagine," says Dan. "It was so beautiful. Like visiting my younger self at school."

One student was especially shy and often kept to himself. "When Dan led the group," says Beth, "the student's shyness melted away."

Your support is helping create leadership opportunities for CATA artists where they can share their talents in powerful new ways. Thank you!



CATA supporter David Rosenthal:

**“At CATA, you
see how you are
making a difference”**

David Rosenthal believes that every person deserves to thrive and feel a sense of belonging. When he first attended the CATA Annual Performance, he knew this was a way to put his values into action.

“From that moment, I fully embraced CATA,” says David. “CATA creates an environment where people with disabilities can thrive.”

When David was growing up, he saw first-hand how people with disabilities didn’t always have meaningful opportunities to express themselves and tap into their potential. That makes him appreciate CATA’s work even more.

“I was struck right away by just how important the work is that CATA does. CATA provides opportunities for people who might not otherwise have them.”

David’s favorite CATA experience comes every year when actor Scott Thomas takes the stage at our Annual Performance for his side-splitting stand-up comedy routine.

“The first time I heard Scott do his comedy act, I was just gobsmacked. I couldn’t stop laughing! I know what it’s like to speak publicly in front of groups of people,



“When you make a donation to CATA, you know exactly where and how your dollars are going to be used. You’ll feel good about yourself— and you’ll feel good about the world.”

and I’ll tell you: It’s not easy! There he is, standing center stage in the spotlight and performing a solo act in front of hundreds of people. It was one of the most moving experiences. I look forward to his performance every year.”

When David met his late-wife Martha Sauer, who was a passionate CATA supporter, his appreciation for CATA only grew. Now, giving to CATA is a way to both make a difference in our community and honor her legacy.

“CATA was very important to Martha. Over the years, I became closer and closer to CATA’s work because of Martha’s passion for the organization. When Martha passed, I decided to amp it up and continue to make a difference in her memory.”



CATA artist Michelle (BCArc Nu-Opps Brain Injury Program) with her artwork at a CATA exhibit. Your support makes our work possible.

Martha was an advocate for CATA’s mission from the start. “Martha would tell you that she was here at the very beginning, when CATA was in its early days. I know she would be really proud of all that CATA has created and become.”

For David, supporting CATA’s work speaks directly to his and Martha’s values.

“Some of the tenets I live by are ‘do the right thing’ and ‘give back.’ If you’re able to, it’s vital that you help those organizations that are important to you— And in my case, important to Martha, too.”

“When you make a donation to CATA, you know exactly where and how your dollars are going to be used. You can see it, you can feel it, and you can experience it. You’ll feel good about yourself— and you’ll feel good about the world.”

Join David Rosenthal and make a gift to support programs for CATA artists at CATAarts.org



You made our Gala & Annual Performance a BIG Success!

We are so grateful to everyone who joined us to celebrate the talents of CATA artists at our Gala & Annual Performance. CATA artists took the stage in show-stopping performances in drumming, juggling, singing, theater, tap, modern dance, comedy, and more. **CATA artists shaped every part of the show:** crafting performances, creating the set, designing costumes, writing song lyrics, and recording original music.

Over 1,000 community members came together for our sold-out gala and matinee performances, and a dynamic dress rehearsal attended by over 200 students from local schools.

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

Kambree (above) performs with the CATA Beat Drummers

**420 Stockbridge Rd, Suite 2
Great Barrington, MA 01230**
(413) 528-5485 • CATAarts.org
info@CATAarts.org

STAFF

Margaret Keller,
Executive Director

PROGRAM

Jeff Gagnon,
Program Director
Kelly Galvin,
Program Director
Kara Smith,
Program Director
Courtney Maxwell,
Program Associate
Shawn Mille,
Program Associate
Wes Buckley,
Resident Music Faculty Artist
Lauren Levato Coyne,
Resident Visual Arts Faculty
Beth Liebowitz,
*Resident Dance Faculty &
Performance Projects Manager*

ADMINISTRATIVE

Katie Clarke,
Administrative Director
James Totten,
Office Manager

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

Chris Watford,
Communications Director
Kelly Rybczyk,
Development Director
Bailey Girvan,
Associate Director of Development
Kate Harding,
Development Coordinator
David Dashiell,
Development Associate

BOARD

Heather Wells Heim,
President
Emily Rechnitz,
Vice President
Eva Sheridan,
Vice President
Ira Grossman,
Treasurer
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Secretary
Sandra Baron
Judy Boomer
Liz Costley
Terry Coughlin
Carol Glazer
Bryan House
Sarah Hunter
Will Osborne
Rich Petrino
Elaine Radiss
David Rice
Carol Riordan
Stephen Shatz
Linda Smothers
John Whalan
Chris White

**Watch our
short film!**

**CATA
is...**

**"I smiled from
start to finish!"**

**"15 minutes of
pure joy"**

**"Alert the Oscar
committee!"**

**Pour yourself a cup of tea and get ready for the most joyful
15 minutes of your day!**

Dive into our fun, joy-filled film and let CATA artists Cindy and Dan take you behind the scenes at Community Access to the Arts— where artists with disabilities are bringing their creativity to life.

It's packed with great interviews, performances, artwork, and more.
What are you waiting for? Watch today at CATAarts.org!

**Watch the
1 minute
Trailer!**



**Watch the
15 minute
Film!**

