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SHAPING MINDS

11 Young Artists Explore Form and Inspiration
Opening Reception Dec. 6th, 5-8 PM

How do young artists grow in sophistication and mastery? How do they learn to challenge themselves and find a personal voice? In this colorful and surprising show, 11 gifted art students from Lincoln Middle School, a Portland Public School, offer a dazzling array of ideas and forms inspired by contemporary abstraction. Teacher Louis-Pierre Lachapelle asked each artist in his special class to choose a modern master they especially admired. The students created a print in homage to the working method, palette or spirit of the admired artist. It was not to be a copy, but the fruit of studying the way the modern master worked with color, shape, texture, content and three-dimensional form. In short, they were to enter the mind of the artist and in so doing, stimulate their own creative process.

A trip to the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation in downtown Portland offered the example of Leo Rabkin (1919-2015), who loved making prints. Never made in editions, but as unique works, Rabkin's prints sometimes suffered the indignity of being torn, shredded, woven and glued into mixed media compositions and an array of boxes filled with odd and beautiful things. Rabkin's process of creative destruction highlighted his reverence for play and exploration over tidiness and predictability. Seeing Rabkin's madcap process and daring

creativity, artists in the class were motivated to give their own prints a second or third life in new works very different from their original impulses.

The Rabkin Foundation invited Mr. Lachapelle's class to exhibit their fabulous prints and transformations in a holiday show running from December to January. We will have a Christmas party/reception in honor of the achievements of the young artists and the fun we have had together. Please join us on Friday December 6th from 5-8 PM to honor: Violet; Quinn; Theo; Elsa; Kristina; Tania; Ben; C..J.; Rosa; Oscar and Ella. This will be the first formal gallery show for some of these students whose gifts shine bright this holiday season and will for many years to come. ###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Susan Larsen at 207-536-1686 or email slarsen@rabkinfoundation.org or Danielle Frye, Curator of the Collection dfrye@rabkinfoundation.org



Print by Tania L., Nov. 2019, *Swirls, Part II*



Box Construction by Ben P., Nov. 2019, *24th Street Unmasked*