



News/Media Release

For Immediate Release

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WOUNDED WARRIORS ART EXHIBITION OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 4 IN IMAGINATION SPACE AT THE CITADEL

-- In Collaboration with Bemis School of Art and AspenPointe --

Colorado Springs, CO – Imagination Celebration’s exhibit and creativity facility, Imagination Space, will be the temporary home for “**Military Creative Expressions**,” an exhibition of nearly 100 art works created by United States soldiers recently back from world conflicts. These soldier-artists, members of Fort Carson’s Warrior Transition Battalion, have found solace and a medium for expression in the art they have created in this program. The exhibit will open this Saturday, June 4, 2011 in Imagination Space at The Citadel and be available for viewing through Saturday, July 16. A reception at 4:00 pm for the artists and their families will highlight the Saturday opening. “Military Creative Expressions” will be open to the public, free of charge, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Photo and interview opportunities:

Saturday, June 4, 2011

12:00 noon – 6:00 pm

(Exhibition Opening Reception at 4:00 pm)

Note: Imagination Celebration and Bemis School of Art will also be hosting a Family Fun Day at Imagination Space from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Many of our soldiers, after returning from war, are afflicted with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This cooperative art therapy program sharing the same name as the exhibition, Military Creative Expressions, enables many soldiers to cope with and

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IMAGINATION CELEBRATION



(2) Wounded Warriors Art Exhibition at The Citadel

understand their condition. The program, started in January of 2010, is a joint effort of Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center's Bemis School of Art and AspenPointe Enterprise. Kim Nguyen, the instructor, uses art and creative therapy processes to teach creative coping skills. Nguyen understands the effects of PTSD first-hand, as she suffered from the illness after moving to the United States from war-scarred Vietnam.

Her students begin with pencils, then progress through other mediums such as color pencils, acrylic, and eventually watercolors, during the fifteen week class. One of the aims of the class is for the soldiers to reclaim their lives and this program gives them the resources for regaining that control. During their weeks of class, the artists visually interpret subjects such as walls, rivers, favorite memories, conflict and resolution. The artists are joined each week by a licensed counselor for any additional support needs. The works produced from this class by over 45 artists are the backbone of the exhibition at Imagination Space.

Imagination Space is one of two facilities operated by Imagination Celebration and dedicated to the arts, technology and human interaction through the creative process. The other, smaller and more intimate facility is Celebration Place, located directly across the hall from Imagination Space. The Space is located on the second floor of the Burlington Coat Factory wing of The Citadel.

Imagination Celebration is connecting people to the brain-stimulating, community-building, life-enhancing power of creativity by inspiring artistic and intellectual curiosity; instigating community collaborations; and promoting life-long experiential learning that helps us thrive in a changing world.

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