

KINDERHAVEN PRESCHOOL ACADEMY

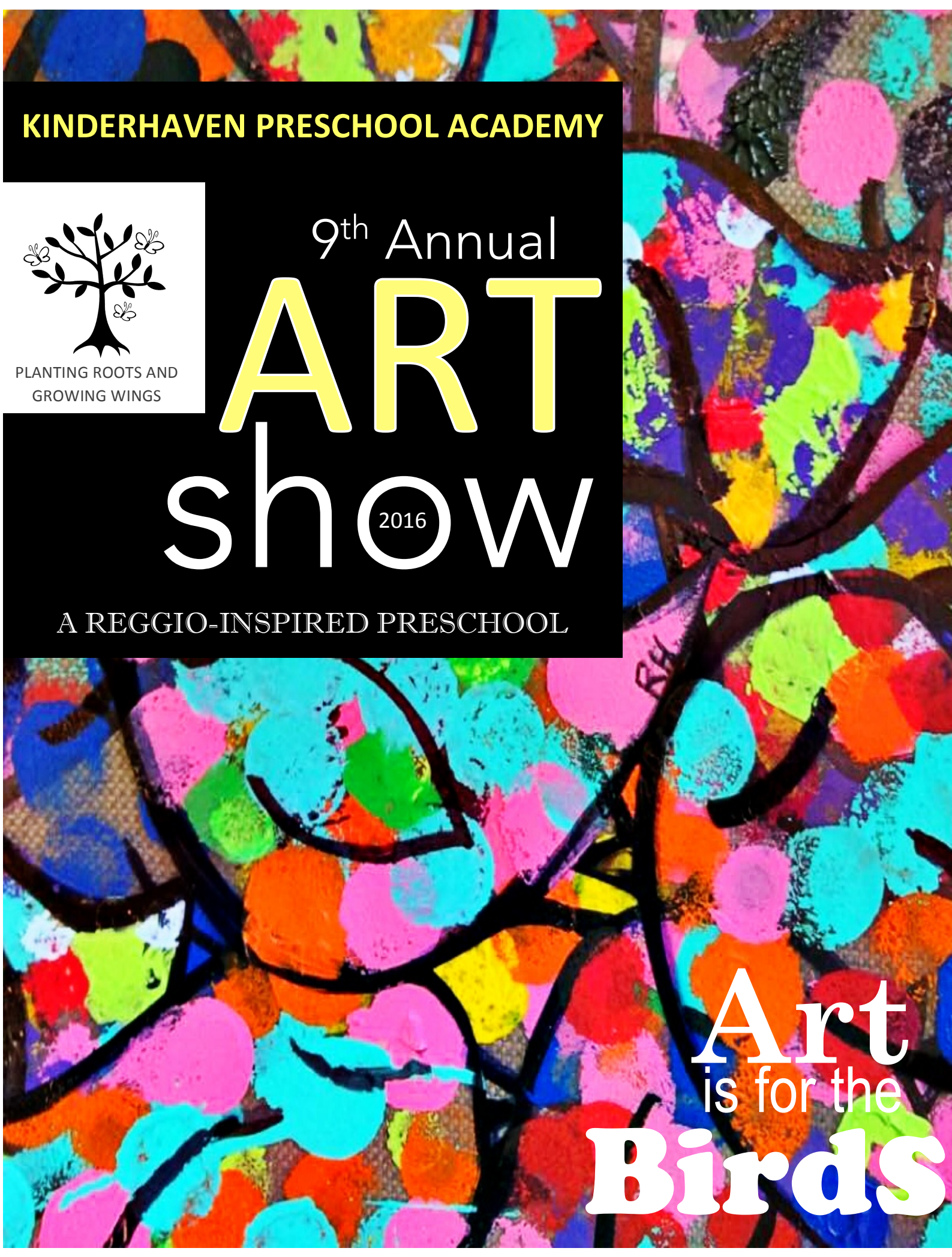


PLANTING ROOTS AND  
GROWING WINGS

9<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**ART**  
show  
2016

A REGGIO-INSPIRED PRESCHOOL

Art  
is for the  
**Birds**



# Art is for the Birds

## How it all began



In the years that I have been at Kinderhaven Preschool Academy, I continue to be amazed at the incredible interest and motivation the children have to produce great art. Their curiosity and desire to learn more about art materials, artists and great works of art is constant motivation to do more and create more. This year's Red Class was no exception. "Art is for the Birds" came to life after our class exploration and projects on birds. They were not only introduced to the many aspects of birds and bird life, they were also encouraged to explore artists and illustrators that used birds as art inspirations. Their favorite artist: Charley Harper! They explored his various interpretations of birds and together we were able to identify how he used shapes to create his visions. The children were also excited to discover new artists such as Lois Ehlert and I.G. Springman through illustrations in some of their favorite books. They loved identifying how the different birds were created and how the "details" really expressed the meaning of the stories. We hope you enjoy these wonderful works of art! Welcome to "Art is for the Birds!"

**Kelly Sindt, Art Director**

**"Art is always different, isn't it?"**

- Robert



## Bird Children -

A black and white photo was taken of each child. They were given a pair of paper wings and asked to use pastels and crayons in order to decorate them. Next, they were asked to use watercolors to complete a crayon resist on their wings. Then, they were given choices of glitter in which to embellish the wings. Lastly, the photo was laid on top of the wings in order to create the bird.



**“You have to add the details  
so people can really see it”**

- Luke

**“I think that being an artist is writing a story with pictures.”** - Eloise M.



## **Charley Harper Owls -**

After learning about the artist Charley Harper and examining his work, the children decided to create his owl. In order to get used to drawing the shapes found in the owl, the children used tracing paper to trace the owl noticing the shapes and how it feels to make them. Next, they were given watercolor paper and asked to use a pencil to “free hand” the owl by using the picture of the owl as a guide. Then, they outlined their drawing with a black permanent marker. Lastly, they used watercolors to paint in their owls.

**“The drawing looks better with the colors all inside!”**

- Brennan

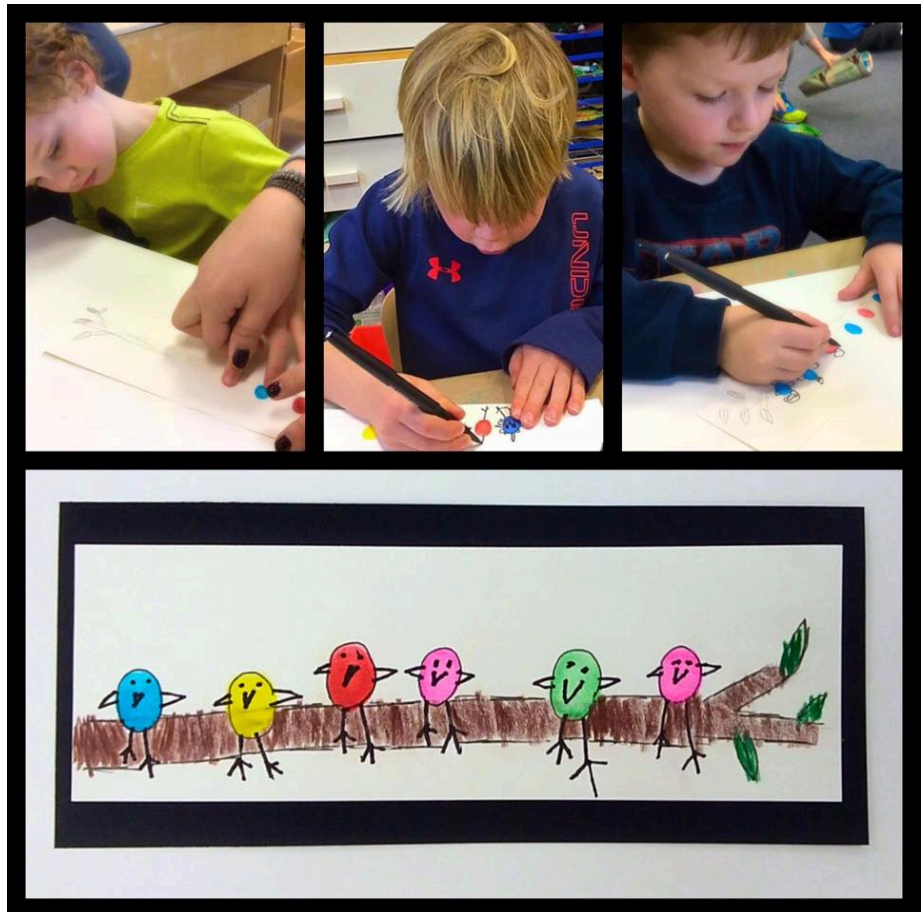


## Prosperity Hens -

The children had rough bird shapes drawn on transparencies. They used clothes pins as bird beaks, grabbing cotton balls and dipping them in vibrant paint. This mimicked the colors in the cloth prosperity hens from India. They chose a ribbon and bells to connect them. This project was based on the concept that when the wind blows the hens, the bells jingle and good luck will follow.

## Thumbprint Birds -

After drawing a rough outline of a tree branch, the children put their fingers in a variety of colored ink. Then, they put their fingerprints up and down the tree branch. Next, they used a felt tipped artist pen to draw eyes, beaks, feet, feathers, etc., creating birds. Lastly, they finished coloring their tree branch using colored pencils.



“I love that I can draw the way I see it!”

- Jean

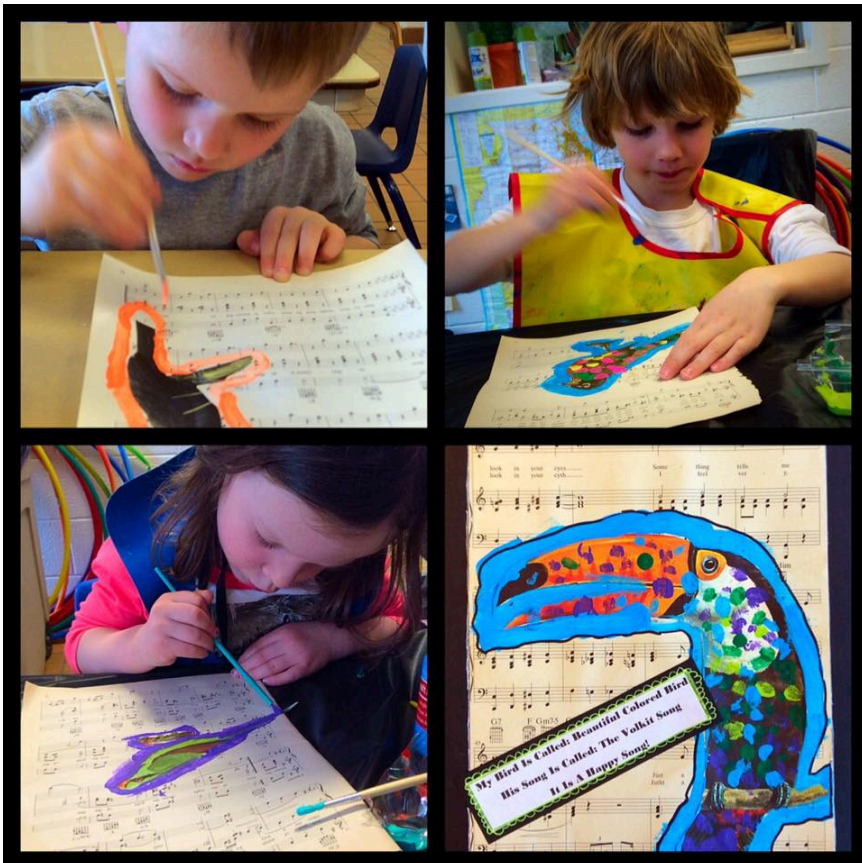
# Magpies -

After reading the book More by I.G. Springman, the children were fascinated with the collection of things in a magpie's nest. On watercolor paper, the children painted a background with acrylic paint. They glued a photo of a magpie that Ms. Sindt took in Mexico to the painted background. Next, the children created a nest for the magpies using a variety of materials. After the nest was completed, the children filled their magpie's nest with objects they brought from home or found at school. Lastly, they chose a phrase or word from the book to add to the artwork, such as "more," "too much," or "not enough."



# Song Birds -

After listening to various apps, CDs, and other forms of song birds' sounds, the children noticed whether the sounds were happy, sad, scared, etc. Next, the children invented their own song bird by choosing a bird from vintage bird books and calendars. These were cut out and affixed to vintage sheet music. Choosing acrylic paint colors, the children painted around and on the bird to create their own unique song bird. Lastly, they named their bird, the song it was singing, and what emotions the song invoked.



# Lois Ehlert Birds -

After reading the book Snowballs by Lois Ehlert, the children discussed the mixed media used in the illustrations. They named various photographed objects, such as a birch tree, that were visible in the illustrations. Ms. Sindt brought in a birch tree branch and led a discussion about how this might be used in the Ehlert art. One child suggested "copying it," so the teachers photocopied the branch! This became the main part of the art piece. Using previously painted papers, the children cut out various shapes and glued them on the birch tree branch, creating several colorful birds. Next, the children used a felt tip marker to draw eyes and other details on the birds. Lastly, the children dipped pencil erasers in white acrylic paint, dotting their paper to create snow.

“Art  
goes  
slow”



- Ethan



## Lois Ehlert Mixed Media Scrap Collage Birds -

After reading Scraps by Lois Ehlert, the children made their own "scraps" bird using many different types of scrap paper. After forming the birds, the children added details to the birds using felt tipped markers.



“Sometimes I draw when I want to see what I am think about.” - Morgan

## Living Forest Heads -

Using the quote from e. e. cummings, “Your head is a living forest full of song birds”, the children discussed the meaning, and whether they thought he was talking about songs, thoughts, ideas, imagination, or memories. A photo of each child was taken in black and white, cut out and placed on the backside of a transparency. Next, the children chose a variety of materials, such as stickers, book pages, flash cards etc. containing butterflies, birds, and flowers. They glued these as a crown around their heads. Lastly, they chose a piece of colored paper for the background.

