The primary purpose of the 2016 Fall Issue of ChildArt Magazine, “Learning From Design!” is to engage you and your teachers and parents in compelling topics about the discipline of design – along with inspiring you to become confident and creative problem-solvers, act as purposeful makers, take ownership of your learning, and make mindful choices.

For more than 20 years, the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) has engaged hundreds of thousands of children from all over the world in the arts and creativity. The ICAF strives to enhance the academic performance of young global citizens by way of creativity, empathy, and 21st century leadership skills. The ICAF’s goal is to empower each child’s imagination to see the possibilities of productive change – to infuse their minds with the power of critical thinking with the intent to innovate better futures. This quarterly publication also serves as a resource for educators around the globe to assist with curriculum development for learners ages 10-14. With each edition, ChildArt aims to foster young people’s capacities to grow their creative imaginations and global competencies.

We welcome your open minds to explore ways to engage the learning process using the transformative concepts set forth – to see through the eyes of budding young creative problem-solvers. Eight amazing designers responded to tough interview questions as visionaries, innovators, and creative problem-solvers. They shared personal stories about who has influenced them, their greatest accomplishments, significant challenges they have faced, and offered sage advice for young 21st century creative problem-solvers! We also heard from remarkable design educators along with ICAF’s design competition updates.

Here are some highlights of what you will find in this issue:

“After that, no project, no matter how big or difficult scared me. I learned I could do anything, as long as I did not know that I did not know how to do it.”

–Arnold Wasserman, Principal at the Collective Invention.

“Young creative problem-solvers should not just use digital devices; rather learn by rolling up their sleeves and creating things with their own hands as well.”

–Mauro Porcini, Chief Design Officer at PepsiCo.

“My mom was the art director for the Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood show; she created a safe place for us to invent at home; supplies were at the ready without any expectation on what we should make.”

–Megan Neese, Senior Manager at the Future Lab, Renault-Nissan Alliance.

“Young creative problem-solvers can benefit from diving into opportunities to learn how to work alongside others.”

–John Edson, President at LUNAR Design.

Our very best wishes to you all,

Doris Wells-Papanek, M.Ed
Design Learning Network, Director
Guest Editor
DEAR YOUNG CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVERS,

As Guest Editor of the 2016 Fall Issue ChildArt Magazine – it is with great excitement that I invite you to join us in this opportunity to wonder, wish, and learn from some of the greatest designers and educators in the world! In these pages, you can learn how to become a creative problem solver. Use the contents of this magazine as your stepping-stone into never-ending insights that will help you navigate whatever comes your way. Learning how to think and act as a creative problem-solver can empower you, help you face any problem or situation while at school and beyond.

You will read stories about designing the future, the powerful influence of mentors, and the incredible benefits of being curious, resilient, and persistent. You will engage in the thrill of design-based learning challenges, ways to visualize, construct, and articulate what you see in your imagination, as well as explore passionate pathways to design the life you love. You will dive into learning as a way to empathize with the struggles of others as well as your own, redesign ways you learn at school, and embrace reading as a way to gain phenomenal courage.

Our goal is for you to learn how to become a courageous and creative problem-solver, to use your own hands to bring your ideas to life, to become passionate about what you learn, and, most of all, to make good choices!

With our very best wishes to you as you learn and grow,

Ms. Doris
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