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### New Look for FUSION !

**FUSION** has a brand new look! And we hope you like it! In keeping with our green practices, we are happy to be able to provide you with a full-color e-zine (electronic magazine) that you can view on your computer or print if you wish. Enjoy and let us know what you think!

### Greetings, Planet Art Therapy!

Happy 2010 to the Art Therapy Alliance and International Art Therapy Organization [IATO] communities! 2010 has gotten off to a great start! Both the Alliance and IATO continue to grow and provide valuable connection, community, and resources for its members through our groups on LinkedIn and Facebook, as well as through the websites [www.arttherapyalliance.org](http://www.arttherapyalliance.org) and [www.internationalarttherapy.org](http://www.internationalarttherapy.org).

Read more on page 2...



Gretchen Miller and Drew Matott, Combat Paper

### Deconstruction to Creation and Healing through Fiber, Pulp and Paper: Combat Paper Project

2010 brings a new, exciting workshop and lecture tour for our partner **Combat Paper Project (CPP)**. As seen by the Art Therapy Alliance and International Art Therapy Organization [IATO] communities in **FUSION's** premier issue, CPP has created papermaking workshops for veterans to transform their combat and service uniforms into liberating, healing works of art. **Read more on p. 9**



News about Art Therapy Alliance and International Art Therapy Organization members, programs, events, and projects [page 3]



New Features Section! Looking for leading edge articles? Go to page 16



Thanksgiving in Palestine International art therapy is a passion for Rebekah Chilcote. Read about her work and other stories [page 11]

# Thanksgiving in Palestine

by Rebekah Chilcote

“We need to light a candle among us all, the children of the world”  
-Ayat al Jaba’ri, Palestinian Child Art Center

International art therapy is my passion. Growing up as a missionary kid in Africa and later traveling the world to do art therapy with AIDS orphans and child tsunami survivors, I am happiest on foreign soil. I never

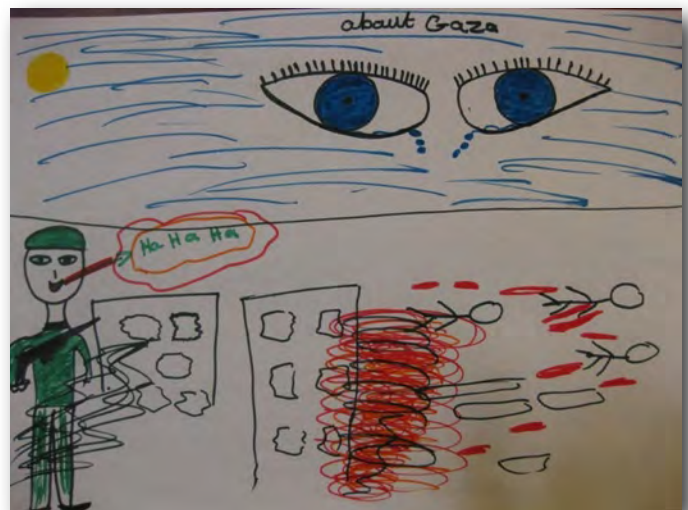


imagined, however, that this Thanksgiving I would find myself on a dirt road, in the dead of night, dragging my little American suitcase of art supplies, surrounded by armed soldiers. My descent into Hebron, Palestine, in the West Bank gave me a small glimpse into the lives of the children who live there: my pounding heart, the check-points, guns and confusion, images of media violence flashing in my mind. For the children living in politically charged Hebron, this is reality.

I arrived in Palestine as a volunteer with the International Child Art Foundation ([www.icafo.org](http://www.icafo.org)) to spend a week at their partner site, The Palestinian Child Art Center (PCAC), and offer art therapy groups for children and training for adult professionals. Founded by Mr. Samih abu Zakieh, the center offers hundreds of children a chance to escape political violence and trauma in a peaceful way. Channeling their pain into art, the children tell a profound new story, one that breaks free from the confines of war. “When you love someone, you go to the end of love,” Mr. Samih said, drawing image after image of peace doves for the children to

color. His love for them and his tireless volunteer efforts are truly changing lives.

The first time I met the children at the Jerusalem School, I cried. “I have come so far to meet you,” I thought. “I have come here for this—to give love, to know it.” They crowded around the windows, peering at me with smiles and Arabic whispers. Their faces were covered in scratches and bruises; many had black eyes. When I asked them to draw “The day I will never forget” they poured out stories of life in a conflict zone. One girl drew a picture of going through check-points, saying “Every day we waste our time waiting in line to have our backpacks searched. We always get late to school.” Almost all the children depicted violence: blood, bodies, guns, and shelling. One child drew the safe, peaceful image of his grandfather’s house. On the back, however, was a picture of himself shooting an AK-47. This juxtaposition of war and peace, safety and fear, was common in their art. During training workshops, most of the adults, when given the same art therapy task, drew traumatic scenes from their childhoods. One woman, a



“About Gaza”

school psychologist, depicted herself, at age 8, hiding in a tree. It was here, in this tree that she learned her father had been killed.

Not all of the children, however, drew scenes of war. One 17 year old girl (I will call Nadira), changed my life through her quiet, unexpected story. She sat in the back of the room at the youth center and while drawing, shielded her face and crying eyes. She drew this way for a long time, and when she was done, called me over. I



**Drawing of "Check Points"**

knelt down beside her, and in perfect English she poured out a deep well of pain, as if she had been waiting, silent and wounded for many years.

*"I like to be alone always," she said. "I dream only in black and white, never in color. The color black is all around me. I am sad all the time. I feel my heart, she is tired. My heart, she is breaking and I don't know why. I drew the tic tac toe symbol because in this life I do not know who is the winner and who is the loser. I also drew these butterflies. They are butterflies of the night. Butterflies are free to come and go, but I feel like their life will be over soon. Their life is short." She took a deep breath and looked at me with overwhelming sad eyes. "Many things happened to me and I can't talk about them. It is too painful. But when I saw you come in the door today, your smile and face so beautiful, I thought, maybe things could be different. I drew this picture and I feel better now after telling you."*

I have not stopped thinking about Nadira for many weeks. Her story stays with me, a challenge: the reality of pain and the hope of art therapy. Nadira still needs us, the children of Hebron need us, citizens of the world, to respond, to join them in sounding out a peaceful cry, a vision of art and reconciliation, to help them one day to dream in color again.

At the end of my week in Hebron, I attended the US-AID Children's Festival, hosted by Mr. Samih and his incredible colleague Mr. Dyab, who also volunteers his life for the future of the children. After hours of painting, drawing, drama workshops, music and clown shows for over 300 children, Mr. Dyab and I sat, reflecting, watching the children slowly trickle home, hands full of paintings. They talked in full voice, running, jumping, laughing in the excitement of the day.

"Do you hear that?" Mr. Dyab said. "Do you hear that? Listen to the children's voices! It is not noise! It is music!"



I have heard the music of the children of Hebron. It is a loud and vibrant sound I still hear when I am awake or sleeping. I also hear the sound of a world waking up to the voices of children, the vision of art therapists streaming to Hebron, to all parts of the world where there



**Drawing of scene of violence**

is suffering, trauma and pain. I add my voice to this music and ask, will you add yours? Together we will sing. Together we will draw healing. Together we will claim peace.

**For information about volunteering with PCAC or any of ICAF's international partners please visit [www.icafe.org](http://www.icafe.org) (Dr. Ishaq, Executive Director, [childart@icafe.org](mailto:childart@icafe.org)) or [www.pcac.net](http://www.pcac.net) (Mr. Samih abu Zakieh, director, [pcac2006@yahoo.ca](mailto:pcac2006@yahoo.ca).)  
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