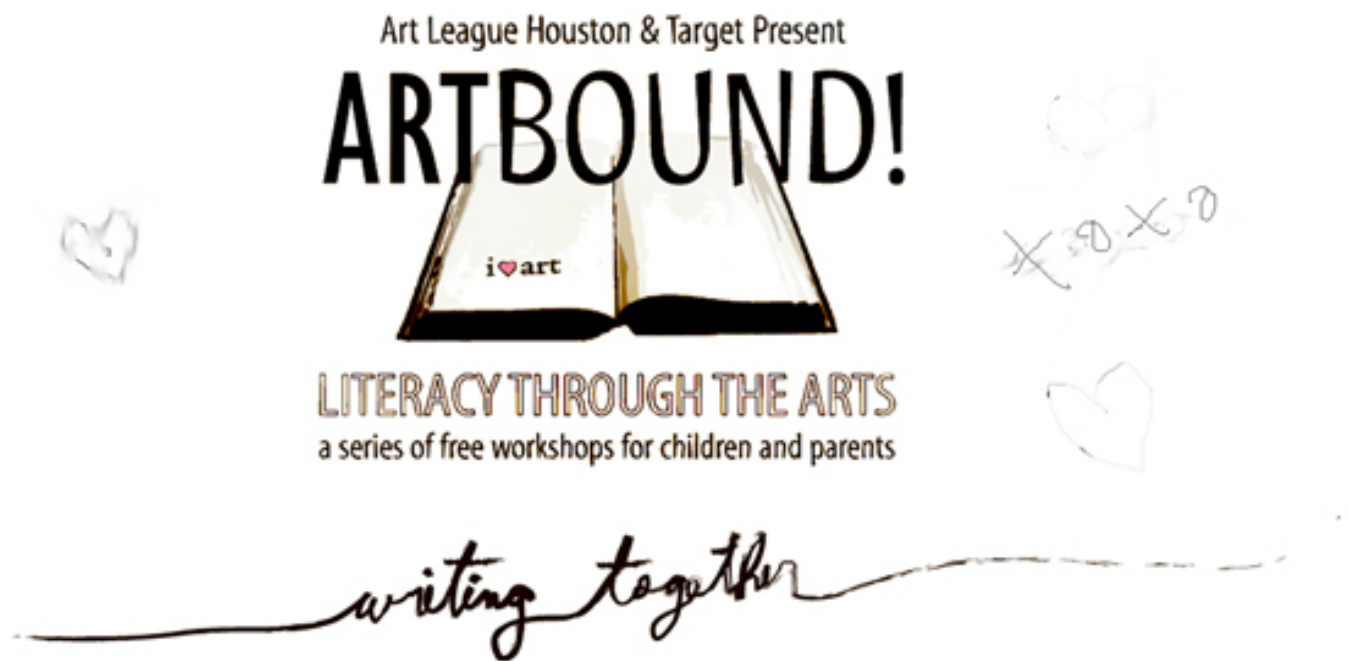




Art League Houston

Press Release

Art League Houston is a 501[c]3 nonprofit charitable organization which cultivates awareness, appreciation and accessibility of contemporary visual art within the community for its cultural enrichment.



Art League Houston and Target Present

The Bird is the Word!

Two FREE Family Workshops on Saturday, September 19, 2009

Morning Session: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Afternoon Session: 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JILL NEPOMNICK or LINDA PHENIX at 713-523-9530

Registration (required) by e-mail: jill@artleaguehouston.org

or by phone: Call Jill at 713-523-9530



The Bird is the Word!

A FREE Workshop for Parents and Children (ages 5 to 11)

This workshop requires a parent to attend with their children, and there is a limit of four attendees per family.

Please note that although the workshops are free, reservations are required and can be made by calling Art League Houston at 713-523-9530 or by emailing Jill at jill@artleaguehouston.org. When making a reservation, please indicate which session you would prefer.

Date and Time: Saturday, September 19, 2009

Morning Session: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Afternoon Session: 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

For the morning workshop, check-in is between 9:30 and 10:00 a.m., and for the afternoon between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. A continental breakfast will be provided in the morning, and a light snack in the afternoon. Once check-in ends, no late comers will be accepted.

Please note that Art League Houston maintains that creativity at its best takes time, therefore Artbound! workshops are designed to give families an experience that runs counter to fast-paced activities.

Location: The Art League Houston House is located at 1003 Bomar, adjacent to Art League Houston. Please note that Art League Houston is located at 1953 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77009. Parking is available in the ALH parking lot. Participants are strongly advised NOT TO PARK in the Texas Art Supply parking lot.

The Bird is the Word! workshop is part of Art League Houston's *ArtBound!* project, sponsored by Target. *Artbound!* workshops promote family literacy and encourage family interaction through the arts. They are taught by professional artists with activities that can be easily replicated at home.



About *The Bird is the Word* Workshop:

Art League Houston and Target are pleased to present *The Bird is the Word!*, an *ArtBound!* workshop led by artist and educator Carole Schneider. In addition to fantastic hands-on activities led by Ms. Schneider, the workshop will include a gallery tour of *Birds: A Collection of Verse and Vision*, which will be on view at Art League Houston from September 18 through October 30, 2009. In the workshop itself, parents and children

will create together art pieces inspired by birds. All supplies are provided free of charge.

The Bird is the Word! workshop is part of Art League Houston's *ArtBound!* program, sponsored by Target. *ArtBound!* workshops promote family literacy and encourage family interaction through the arts. These workshops are taught by professional artists, with activities that can be easily replicated at home.

The Bird is the Word! workshop is in conjunction with *Birds: A Collection of Verse and Vision*, with paintings by Isabelle Scurry Chapman and poems by Jim Blackburn, on view September 18 through October 30, 2009 in the ALH Front Gallery. The images and poems in the exhibition are a selection of works from their forthcoming book of the same name.



Isabelle Scurry Chapman's passion for birds was instilled early on, through her father's gift of a Peterson's *Field Guide to Birds*, and their shared trips to a fishing camp where she became acquainted with a blind man who could identify birds by sound. Her paintings of birds started out as a group of portraits of her favorite Galveston birds, but soon grew to include others Texas birds as well. The birds in the Art League exhibition are painted on cigar boxes, chosen because they represent a place to store treasures, and because of their "ribcage size - perfect for things of the heart and soul," as Scurry Chapman says. In 1975, she met the writer Jim Blackburn through her husband, and it was he who taught her the true art of bird watching.

Although a serious writer who eloquently addresses issues such as coastal preservation and sustainable development, **Jim Blackburn** had not considered his poetry to be anything other than a form of entertainment he wrote or made up on the cuff for himself and his friends. This all changed in the fall of 2008. "The idea to collaborate came when I walked into [Isabelle's] studio, saw the birds on the wall and literally said, "I can write poems to go with these birds." The poems Blackburn created, in response to his friend's work, allowed him to more fully express his spiritual devotion to nature or what he refers to as "Earth Church," in ways he had only touched upon in his prose.

About the Teaching Artist: **Carrie Schneider** is a conceptual and visual artist who recently returned home to Houston from Baltimore where she earned a B.F.A. with honors from the Maryland Institute College of Art

(MICA). As an artist, she has focused primarily on illustration, drawing, collaborations involving poetry and language, and conceptual projects. A dedicated educator, Carrie was a teaching artist for MICA's Community Arts Partnership. She taught art and healing art workshops for Adelante Familia for Art on Purpose and the Walters Museum of Art. She worked for the Refugee Youth Project, the Baltimore Organization for the Promotion of the Arts on Community Based Murals, and ArtWalk Annapolis for the placement of public art. In the summer of 2008, she designed and implemented an art therapy curriculum at Mosoj Yan in Cochabamaba, Bolivia. Carrie has taught locally at the Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center, and she currently teaches after school classes in creative drama and art at the Presbyterian School. She is glad to home working in her community with organizations like Art League Houston to develop workshops which inspire creativity and learning. When Carrie is not teaching art, she is making art, traveling, dancing at Tangohous, and continuing to learn as much as she can.

About Art League Houston:

Art League Houston is one of Houston's longest operating non-profit visual arts organizations and was the first alternative art space in Texas. Founded in 1948 and incorporated as a non-profit in 1953, Art League Houston was created to promote the public appreciation of and interest in the visual arts. During the past sixty one years, Art League Houston (ALH) has presented over 770 exhibitions to the Houston community, showcasing the work of over 22,000 artists. Over 30,000 students have received instruction at the Art League School. ALH also conducts outreach programming for individuals living with serious illness and disability, students at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and low-income youth in Houston schools, and families.

About Target:

From national partnerships to local initiatives to its own programs, Target is committed to making our communities better places to live. Since its inception, Target has given 5% of pretax dollars to good causes. It's a tradition started by its founder George D. Dayton. Today, Target gives more than \$3 million every week to support education, the arts, social services and volunteerism.

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