Welcome to the intersection of science, nature and art aptly named, *Planet Art!* at Camp Art Academy. Actually, the name for this week’s theme was almost, *Art and the Theory of Everything!* Why you might ask?

Continued on page 2

**Art Spotlight**

*Interplanetary Artistic Inspiration!*

Our imaginations will be stretched to the farthest reaches of the universe this week at *Planet Art!* Camp Art Academy. We will look to the stars through the eyes of surrealist painters Kush, Bonestall, Pesek, and Rudaux, who painted exotic worlds filled with strange and beautiful nature! Blossoms and landscapes will come to life with artists O’Keeffe and Church, and we will use our imaginations to create our own wondrous natural worlds. A special mid-week field trip to the Drake Planetarium will open our eyes to the skies above! At Drake they say, “The sky is NOT the limit!” As we gaze at the stars and planets, we will feel inspired to dream up new possibilities. Drake offers several high-tech, science shows tailored for our campers, and their programming will take us straight up into outer space. Our field trip will help campers develop a love of science and the many wonders of our Universe, and our artistic abilities will expand right along with our imaginations! More information on Drake Planetarium’s educational programs is available at [www.drakeplanetarium.org](http://www.drakeplanetarium.org). They even have their own camp! Above image by artist: Kuch
From the Director...continued

It is because research shows that cultivating or mastering an art form is associated with greater achievement in many areas of life, including academics, employment and civic responsibility (The College Board, 2011 and James S. Catterall, 2009). The intrinsic benefits of enjoying making art come along with cognitive benefits too, like right and left brain development and creative problem-solving. Scientist who study Einstein's brain report that the connection between his right and left brain was more developed than we “non-geniuses”. In addition, creativity is a skill that is very attractive to employers. The Arts Education Partnership, a division of the Council of Chief State School Officers, has released a new research brief, “Preparing Students for the Next America: The Benefits of an Arts Education,” providing a snapshot of how arts education can enhance literacy and mathematics skills, while ensuring a competitive and comprehensive education for every young person in America. In fact, the Wall Street Journal published an article last fall reporting that a fine-arts degree provided better job prospects than other degrees like psychology or social work. Those who pursued art as a career reported being happier and more satisfied than those in other fields too! Well, you don’t have to be a genius to figure that out.

So let’s put on our creative thinking caps and explore unknown territory together from Futurist painters like Balla who are out of this world, to the grounded, naturalist of the turn of the century. We are glad your camper is with us for a week that is both in AND out… of this world.

In Inspiration,
Ramona Toussaint
Camp Art Academy Director

Meet Our Team Spotlight
Carole Ritchie, a Caring, Creative Thinker

Carole Ritchie, a Miami University graduate, taught art and gifted classes for over 40 years. Enthusiastic and full of energy, she uses art to help kids learn beyond paint and easel. Meta-cognition is “Thinking About Thinking” and Carole helps campers notice, wonder, see, feel and think about their thinking through art! We spoke to her to find out more about her and her unique approach.

What inspired you to become an artist & art educator?
CR: My mother worked in CPS as an art educator, and around town as a local artist, so our house was always filled with art and I was always surrounded by art. So, becoming a school artist was a natural progression for me. I fell in love with teaching art to kids when teaching my first art classes. I really enjoy the spontaneity and creative aspects of art education. I encourage my students to explore the creative process and to develop their problem solving skills. I know not all my students will have careers in art, but I want every student to learn to be a creative thinker!

What is it that makes Camp Art Academy so special?
CR: First of all, the art we make here is always of the highest quality. We focus on the fine arts and develop our skills such as drawing and shading. We also learn about the great artists and about art history, which is really important for young people. Secondly, the attitude at Camp Art Academy is always so positive! Every camper comes here with the desire to work on higher level and to learn as much as they can. Finally, in my work with gifted children I know that small class sizes and individual attention mean that every child can be successful here.

Keep Up with Your Camper!
See all of the wonderful things your child is doing in camp by connecting with us on social media.

#GoAheadCreateYourself