
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts

Culver City High School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVPA Art Students "Facing the Wall"

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What does division mean and what is the cultural impact of physical and psychological barriers? These were just some of the questions the Wende Museum's Community Outreach Program asked students in the art department of Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA). In response, 21 students created six 9' by 3' panels that expressed their daily anxieties and concerns around division.



The Museum is hosting a reception on Sunday, November 5 for the AVPA students as well as others involved in the outreach program, including youth from Los Angeles Girl Scout Troop 990, Camp Good in the Hood, and Temple Kehillat Israel. Program participants' work will be displayed for their family and friends at the event which starts at 3:00 p.m. at the The Wende Museum, 5741 Buckingham Parkway, #E in Culver City. Reservations are required. 310-216-1600.

The panels will be part of the Museum's exhibition entitled, "Facing the Wall." This exhibition, due to open in Spring 2007, will feature an original 2.6 ton segment of the Berlin Wall painted by the famous wall painter, Thierry Noir. The Museum's outreach program, "Berlin Wall Mural Project – Los Angeles," taught Los Angeles area students the history of the Wall and provided them with their own Berlin Wall space to express their thoughts on the topic.

Kristine Hatanaka, AVPA's co-executive director and head of the art department was impressed with the results of her student's projects. According to Hatanaka, "I was a little surprised because all the students took far more of a political perspective than I had expected."

Wende Museum president, Justin Jampol says, "We were all impressed with the work ethic and insight of the students involved in this project. The history of the Berlin Wall is complex and multi-faceted. It was wonderful to see how the students, with the guiding hand of Ms. Hatanka, reflected



upon this history while exploring the nuances of Los Angeles culture and its corresponding pressures."

Founded in 2002, the Wende Museum is dedicated to preserving and exhibiting social and cultural artefacts, artwork and archives relating to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union during the Cold War Era. The Museum boasts one of the largest known private collections of objects and archives reflecting the post-war cultures of communist Eastern Europe and the USSR.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information about the Academy, go to www.avpa.org or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or Kristine Hatanaka at 310-842-4200 x6001.

Photo caption:

1105 berlin wall no kids: AVPA students' panels for the Wende Museum's "Facing the Wall" exhibition.
1105 berlin wall 3: AVPA students with their panels for the Wende Museum's "Facing the Wall" exhibition.