
Monroe College Hosts Inspirational Art Exhibition Showcasing Experiences of Young Migrants on their Journeys through Trauma

"Pintando Almas/Painting Souls" Art Exhibition Held in Partnership with Local Community Advocacy Organization Rising Ground

BRONX, NY, July 13, 2023 -- [Monroe College](#), a national leader in educating first-generation and international students, proudly welcomed young artists to campus this week for a moving art exhibition called "Pintando Almas/Painting Souls".

More than 30 young artists, most of whom came to the United States as unaccompanied minors, showcased paintings at the event held last Monday.

Their artwork reflected a broad array of experiences and emotions, echoing each artist's personal journey through the struggles, stresses, and trauma of leaving their family and homeland for the uncertain promise of a better future. As minors, doing so unaccompanied was especially challenging and difficult for many of them.

The three-hour "Pintando Almas/Painting Souls" exhibition was held in partnership with Rising Ground, a community-based organization dedicated to helping individuals and families in New York rise above adversity and thrive. Held in Gaddy Atrium on the New Rochelle campus, the event was part of the youngsters' art therapy – an approach to psychotherapy that involves art as tool to process, interpret, express, and help resolve emotions.

Rising Ground's Urania Castaneda and Diana Amado opened the event with moving words about the Passage of Hope program as well as strong praise for the courageous artists in attendance who shared their stories and artwork. Guylaine Harrison, dean of Monroe's School of Criminal and Social Justice, also made remarks during the event.

"The 'Passage of Hope' exhibition was incredibly powerful and we are so grateful to Rising Ground for their incredible work with these young people and for partnering with us on this event," said Dean Harrison.

She continued: "The young artists went through extraordinary challenges to get to where they are today and we thank them for their courage and determination. They have expressed their creative intelligence through their artwork. Their powerful messages about trauma and the remarkable resilience of the human spirit will stay with us for a long time."

Each young artist received a Certificate of Appreciation from Monroe College and Rising Ground.

Art therapy is often used with children who have been traumatized as a mechanism to work through the distress of their experiences. It is especially useful when the survivor hasn't fully processed their trauma or is unable or unwilling to speak about it.

ABOUT MONROE COLLEGE

Founded in 1933, Monroe College is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The College is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students. The strength of its warm, supportive culture is reflected in the personal connections fostered among students, faculty, and staff.

Monroe educates close to 8,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from campuses in the Bronx, New Rochelle, and St. Lucia. Students may also take courses online.

Programs are offered through seven academic schools, including the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management and the Culinary Institute of New York (CINY), Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available. For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroecollege.edu/>.

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