

During this school year, I volunteered at the Winnipeg Art Gallery as a member of the Student Art Board (SAB). We started a project to paint a picture that was inspired by a painting already displayed in the permanent collection exhibition. I chose a painting by Bertram Brooker, a Canadian painter. This particular painting was inspired by music. In December we hosted a formal gathering at the WAG called "Botero or Bust". Fernando Botero paints fat people mainly in portraits. The paintings depict his difficult childhood and youth in Columbia. I got to display my Brooker inspired painting at this event.

The next meeting was held at Wanda Koop's studio. She is a well-known Winnipeg painter and we went on the bus to visit her during a blizzard. She lives in an old warehouse almost under the Disraeli Freeway. While at her studio, we looked at her work and learned about how she does her paintings. I was very impressed with the number of paints and paintings she has in her studio.

The next event I volunteered at was the WAG Christmas party. I helped set up the crafts and then helped small children make origami Christmas ornaments for the WAG Christmas tree. I also helped with clean-up. In early January the SAB began planning several events to draw teenagers into the WAG. I also volunteered for a Family Sunday in January. The featured artist was Fernando Botero at the time so there was dancing and crafts that focused on Columbia. I helped young children again make Botero-inspired crafts. Again, I was responsible for set up and take-down of the craft centre.

During January and February we gathered supplies and planned our Teen Art parties to be held in March. We were planning to have a drawing party one week and a painting party another week. We walked over to Art Junction where we could get free art supplies for our parties. The parties were held on March 10 and 24 and were well-attended. I set up for the parties and handed out supplies to the students who were drawing or painting. I also did clean-up afterwards. During March I also attended a high school WAG Volunteer orientation.

In April we made thank-you cards for patrons who donated money for the events that the SAB was able to plan during the year. I also did an art critique during April. The board brought their portfolios of art on different days and the rest of the group critiqued their art. I found it interesting seeing other student's art and I learned a lot from them.

I volunteered for another Family Sunday event on May 1. I helped set up and take down the craft centre. During my time there that day, I helped young children experience and appreciate the art at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. The children painted pictures that were inspired by the Gallery. And it was another blizzard that day. What's up with all the blizzards? In mid-May we had run out of donor money so we could not have the roof-top party that we wanted to plan for teens at the end of the year so we decided to invite family and friends to an art-inspired potluck for our last meeting. I now have to say goodbye to an awesome year of learning, enjoying and working with art and people who love art in Winnipeg.