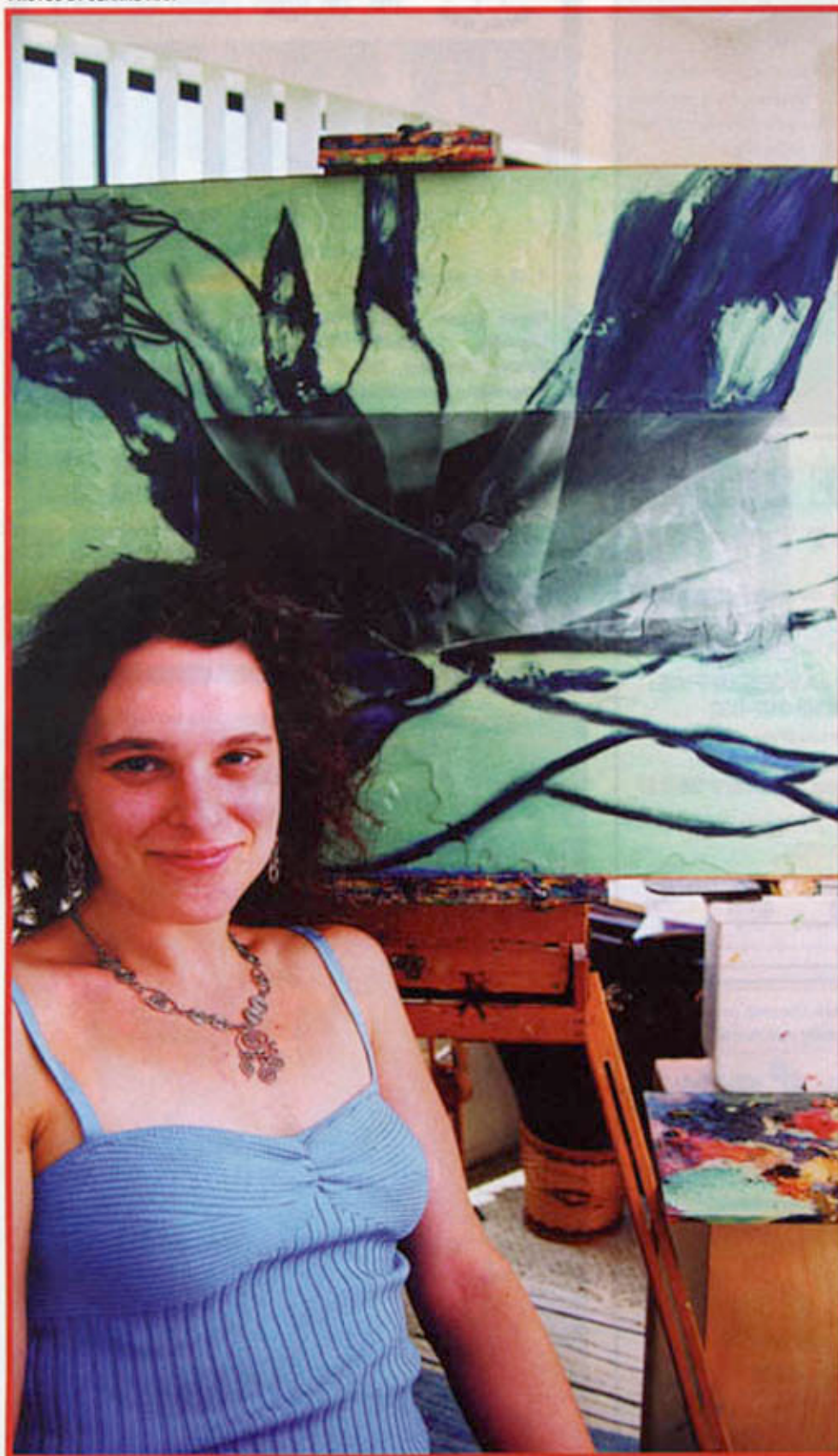




Art for heart's sake

**Stacie Greene
brings
Cubism to the
kids of Camp
Jaycee.**

by Laura Egendorf

Most of us remember childhood experiences with art, from papier-mâché to collages. These crafts were often done in the classroom, but with budget cuts destroying arts education in local schools, San Diego children need new places to develop their creativity. A new collaboration between the Institute for Arts Education and the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center has proven to be one way to fill this gap. Called the Artists-in-Residence, the program keeps professional artists in San Diego by giving them work at Camp Jaycee, the largest Jewish day camp in San Diego.

The Institute for Arts Education is an organization founded in 1985 that, with the help of specially trained teaching artists, has shown 4,500 teachers how to integrate art into their curriculum, designed art education programs and brought performances to local schools. Margo Sharpe Samuels, executive

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director of the IAE, became interested in collaborating with the JCC when her son attended its preschool.

When she heard that Sandy Saperstein-Rafner, the head of Camp Jaycee, was interested in developing an arts program, Samuels introduced her to Stacie Greene, an accomplished artist and IAE employee whose work has been exhibited at the Center for Moving Arts, Gallery Now, and the Lyceum Theater.

Greene’s work spans a variety of genres, from photography to video to abstract art. The 30-year-old artist is not Jewish, but she married into a largely Jewish family and has an aunt who converted to Judaism. That background, along with previous experience teaching at the Chabad Hebrew Academy, makes her well suited for teaching at Camp Jaycee.

“[Greene]’s extremely vibrant and very passionate about teaching art,” says Samuels. “She’s also a full-time artist. And I work very hard to get people like Stacie jobs wherever I can.... I think she’s brought a lot of sophistication to the arts program.” A second artist, James Watt, also an IAE employee, taught sculpture and caricature for Camp Jaycee’s art camp and after-camp programs.

As head of the arts program at Camp Jaycee this past summer, Greene taught nearly every camper. “We’re learning landscapes, portraits, batiks, mosaics, ceramics, bookmaking. We’ve been doing photo montage and collage, things like that,” said Greene in July. Samuels notes that one of the most unique projects visitors saw at Camp Jaycee were 3-D ver-

sions of Picasso’s Cubist guitars built out

Institute and in Italy, enjoys teaching children because “they’re always surprising and it’s always amazing to see what they come up with.” She has taught adults in the past, including at the now-defunct Art Tours, and would like to do so again. She points out though that, unlike children, “Adults are in some ways a lot more challenging, because they have a lot more intimidation, they’re a little more reserved in a lot of ways. Some of them have had bad experiences with art... but you can do more complicated things, on the other hand.” Greene returned to IAE in the fall but hopes to continue collaborating with the JCC.

With the non-profit IAE facing severe funding cuts, it must collaborate with other organizations, such as the JCC, to continue to provide local arts programs. Future collaborations may include a bookmaking workshop; the two organizations and Starlight Theater also joined forces in a Summer fundraiser staging of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Camp Jaycee ended in August. However, for children who missed out this summer, there will hopefully be further opportunities to grow creatively under the tutelage of one of San Diego’s most accomplished young artists. Art is an experience no child should miss out on, and people like Stacie

Greene and her co-workers at IAE and the Artist-in-Residence program are doing all they can to bring hands-on art to the children of San Diego.

For more information on the Institute for Arts Education, call (619) 246-3583.



Greene’s work spans a variety of genres, from photography to video to abstract art. Her home is absolutely covered with her art.

of cardboard and string. Another unusual project was a photo montage where students took elements (nose, eyes, ears, etc.) from different photos to make a completely new and surrealistic picture.

Greene, who has pursued an art career since sixth grade and has studied art at the University of Kentucky, Chicago Art