

ArtSpirit's *Many Faces*: “It means inspiration...”

As Steve and I sit down to the table, the large room feels empty. Usually bustling with a steady stream of people, the airy sanctuary of Church of the Holy Apostles serves as dining room for over one thousand meals every weekday. But now, after lunch, the crowd has dispersed.

I'm asking Steve what effect he thinks the Holy Apostles' Soup Kitchen (HASK) Drumming and Art Group has on its participants. This is a formal interview and as we sit, I notice that both Steve and I are looking at my notepad as if it's an intruder from another planet. It is. Usually Steve and I are in the drum circle together, drumming, or at



group with society rings true—rhythm has served as a connector throughout history, and this group in particular has formed a strong bond and a culture of it's own through their use of the drums. The mandala, collage and mask making that follow the hour of drumming in the weekly program together create a full community-building ritual



the art table, creating art.

“It means inspiration and it shows love,” says Steve. “And that they are somebody... and the music performances keep them connected with society.” This grass roots group of drummers have done several professional performances. As recently as last Ascension Thursday in May, the group drummed for Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan.

Steve's observation that the drumming connects the

experience for the group.

Giving back, sharing their inspiration and talent is important for the HASK group. In addition to drumming performances the group have had successful exhibits of their art, and are looking forward to another one this



fall. On Saturday September 20, 2008 you can hear recordings of their music and meet the drummers while you view their masks which will be on display in the exhibit *MANY FACES* at Gallery 138 at the Rudolf

Steiner Bookstore at 138 West 15th Street in New York. This exhibit is made possible by a grant from Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. At the opening participants are invited to take part in an evening celebration of the International Day of Peace.



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ArtSpirit is a 501 c-3 tax exempt organization founded in 1997 with the mission to use the arts as community building tool. It has mounted several community-based exhibits and performances with the common thread of increasing cross-cultural awareness. In 2000, *ArtSpirit* expanded into a direct service organization and designed and implemented programs that utilized the expressive arts to build community for undeserved individuals at a variety of sites in New York City.

ArtSpirit's current program, The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen Drumming and Art Group, began in 2005 to provide an art and drumming experience for soup kitchen guests. It was seed funded in 2006



by Trinity Church for one year with the intention to create a model to bring to other sites. *ArtSpirit* plans to create a series of training workshops, which will enable other sites to have cost-effective access to this program.

Gallery 138 is a multi-use alternative gallery space located adjacent to the Rudolf Steiner Bookstore at 138 West 15th St. For gallery viewing availability, please contact Marion Williams at 212-288-1809.

This article © by Marion Williams who is the director of ArtSpirit Inc. For information about the art, programs, or to donate or volunteer, please call her at 212-288-1809.

