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Winthrop University

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Semester-long Partnership Results in "and Away we Grow" Exhibit

ROCK HILL, S.C. – Winthrop art education majors worked with elementary and middle school students to focus on the process of creating works of art that are finished yet unfinished with the ability to grow.

Their results are part of 10th Annual Art Education Senior Show “and Away we Grow,” which opened Dec. 7 in the Lewandowski Gallery.

The exhibition is a culmination of a semester-long partnership with Winthrop seniors and York and Lancaster county students from kindergarten through eighth grade. For one day each week, senior art education students met with their classes to explore the idea of growth with the expectation that each student would produce an art piece that reflected their creative process.

Schools involved were: Crowers Creek Elementary, Oakridge Middle School, Gold Hill Elementary, Indian Land Middle School, Richmond Drive Elementary, Saluda Trail Middle School and Sullivan Middle School.

Winthrop art education students taught lessons based on symbolism, imagery and different art mediums. For instance, Senior Sarah Walker had Susan Barnette's art class at Sullivan Middle School watch a video of the artistic process of illustrator Eric Carle and then made collages based on his process. The students then painted paper, chose still life designs and collaged the paper choosing areas of their pieces to emphasize.

This particular project was also influenced by the work of Jean Auguste Dominque Ingres whose drawings looked unfinished, but he chose certain areas of his pieces to emphasis.

The art education lesson plans, works by Winthrop's art education seniors and selected public school student pieces from this partnership will be available for viewing in the Lewandowski Gallery until Jan. 18. Winthrop seniors reported: “No matter what level the student, there is always an opportunity for growth.”

Winthrop seniors involved are: Allyson Butler, Ember Estridge, Lydia Fraser and Melissa Littlejohn. Graduate students, who are seeking their Master of Arts degree in Teaching, are: Sarah Walker, Katherine Ware and Laura Zellmer. The class was taught by faculty member Laura Gardner.