

Chiang Mai Art Class

Studio Xang, what a strange name! What kind of organization is this? A studio for elephants? Not at all! We are neither a studio nor work with elephants though or students can be as playful and cheeky as baby elephants! Still no clue? Well, we teach visual arts for child development to migrant children. In Chiang Mai, our team of volunteer teachers travels on motorbikes to migrant construction workers camps. From the stripy sacks they carry, they pull out all the materials necessary for an art classes, just like magic. "Xang teachers are here!", children yell to each other throughout the camp and come rushing to start the class. When teachers are packing up, children often say "I wish you came everyday!"

Outside of our regular activities, we also organize special art activities with other organizations or schools around Chiang Mai.

Let's see what children at Bahn Houay sai primary school are doing?

From this picture, what do you think it these Gr.4-5 children are making? Can you guess? It is a 3 dimensional activity done in groups using recycled materials. Here you are, this is the sculpture the group.....



In the winter, the school of Lanna wisdom organizes Lanna arts festivals where children can learn traditional crafts and music. After the performances, children can come and relax with Studio Xang and draw or try the Shibori dying technique on mulberry paper.

Mae Sot Art Class

Studio Xang Maesot activity were initiated by volunteers from the migrant community after attending a teacher training on art and child development given by Studio Xang in 2006. The Maesot branch comprises two part time staff and 10 local volunteers teaching 6 different art classes and providing trainings to other local organizations. Art classes are taught at Studio Xang office and in migrant schools at the weekends. We work with Has Mu tau, Mae Tao Mai, Ban San Kwe, LDF, BLSO and the So-O school but our students come from many areas around Maesot. Students are aged between 5 and 17; they are from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, and so are our volunteers. Currently 200 students attend our classes.

The art activities propose experiences with different media to students, new things to learn mixing traditional and contemporary techniques. In the team, everyone contributes to designing activities, often getting ideas by observing one's everyday environment and adapting activities to children's living standards. What students learn, they can do again at home.

As well as organizing teacher trainings for our own volunteer team, we provide trainings for other organizations on request. Networking has helped us develop collaborations with other organizations in Maesot and consequently created new opportunities for more students to attend classes. Organizations such as Kayah women organization and teachers in Mon state have suggested us to start classes and teacher trainings in Burma.

In the summer holidays, Namtok School in Maesot, invited Studio Xang for the second year in a row to take part in their summer camp. We provided a day art workshop for 80 students.

The story of Ma Ma Aye is a good example of how Studio Xang's activities contribute to change in children's everyday lives. Ma Ma Aye is 9 years old and goes to a Thai government school. Most Thai teacher do not expect migrant children to do well at school. However, Ma Ma Aye is as successful in her studies as her Thai classmates. Actually, she has the same results as the son of an immigration officer. Because she can teach them art activities, Ma Ma Aye has made many friends at school. Examples of successes like Ma Ma Aye help promote positive attitude towards migrant children who are often under-estimated.



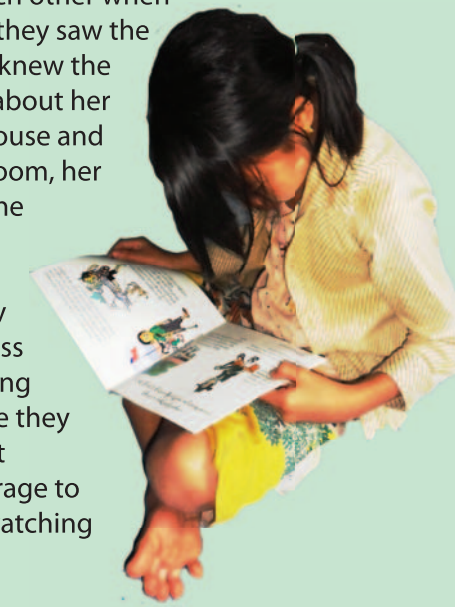
Mae La Oon Art Class



Mae Sot Outreach

Mae Taung Mai (12.6.11) 9:00 am – 11:00 am

When we met with Ma Thein Thein's parent, she told that sometimes she bleeds in the nose at night. Although she can learn well because all people in her family work, they can't give time to her. They can meet each other when they have days off. Sometimes they are glad when they saw the pictures and art works done by her daughter. They knew the house and the tree picture because she told them about her pictures. The house in the picture is their family's house and there are living room, parent's bed room, her bed room, her sisters' bed room, kitchen and toilet in the house. The tree is to play with her friends on her holidays. She told her parent sometimes she wanted to listen stories with her parent under the tree at night. They thank Studio Xang to teach their daughter to express her feelings and desires that she wants to, by drawing pictures. They couldn't pay attention to her because they struggle for living. But when they saw her picture, it reminded them to concentrate her. Now we encourage to her to attend art class and we give time to her by watching movies together and chatting.



Pai in love
Studio Xang teachers together with Australian graffiti artist was happy to accept an invitation from Warm up, a famous Chiang Mai music venue, to travel to Pai and organize a one day art camp for local secondary school students. In this picture, children are doing a mural painting on the outside of a giant Camera Obscura which was used to explain the photographic mechanism. According to these graffiti's, children love Pai!

J.J. market Exhibition and children day, January 2011

Children, what are you looking for? I'm looking for my artwork, is it exhibited here? At each Studio Xang annual exhibition, children all share a feeling of excitement and pride when looking for their artwork in the display and finding it to show their friends and family. This year the exhibition was held at J.J market and the opening day took place on children's day. There were plenty of activities for our students to enjoy!

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