



**Festivals, Workshops and Mentoring Programs**



## **8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DISCOVERABILITY ART EXHIBIT AND SILENT CHARITY AUCTION**

**FEBRUARY 25-28, 2008**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Toronto, February 2008** - From Monday, February 25, to Thursday February 28, 2008.

**DiscoverAbility** will transform the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, Barbara Frum Atrium and Metro Hall Rotunda into two community art galleries and raise funds for charity. The event will showcase 600 pieces of unique artwork created in DiscoverAbility's innovative workshops which team older and younger students in a mentoring relationship. The workshops run throughout the year in elementary and secondary schools, community spaces, colleges and universities in the Greater Toronto Area and in the Czech Republic, Hong Kong and Vancouver

The participants have created a piece of artwork to be auctioned off at either the CBC or Metro Hall exhibit. All proceeds from the sale of artwork go to charity. Fifty percent of the proceeds go to DiscoverAbility Inc. (a registered charity) and fifty percent to a charity of the young artist's choice. In asking participants to donate their artwork, DiscoverAbility instills within its participants a sense of civic responsibility.

In addition to an already popular exhibit, DiscoverAbility will host “**ARTS ALIVE!**”, its First Annual Corporate Night, on Thursday, February 28, 2008, from 5-8 p.m. in the CBC, Barbara Frum Atrium. Dance, music and vocal performances by children, youth and young adults will infuse this unique evening with creative energy. **Councillor Michael Thompson**, DiscoverAbility’s civic host, will welcome guests to the event on behalf of the City of Toronto. And this year, **Daniel D. Brambilla, CEO, Sony Centre for the Performing Arts** will be the guest speaker.

Brambilla will unveil a special painting created by DiscoverAbility’s young artists. Inspired by a production featured at the Sony Centre, this year’s special piece will be based on the musical RENT. A second painting based on photography taken during DiscoverAbility’s 2007, trip to China will be unveiled by DiscoverAbility mentoring artist Zara Diniz.

Come and join us, and support DiscoverAbility as we enrich the lives of children through art. Place your silent bid, purchase that special craft at the Marketplace, enjoy the uniquely creative live performance at **Arts Alive!**, or buy a one-of-a-kind inspirational piece of art.

Shake off the winter "blahs" and say "ah!" to DiscoverAbility's Children's Arts Festival.

## **About DiscoverAbility**

DiscoverAbility’s innovative workshops team older and younger students in a mentoring relationship. Founded by Irene Udo in 2001, the program fosters positive role models and engages children in the artistic process. Bringing together elementary and high school as well as college and university students provides children, youth and young adults a unique opportunity to learn under the direction of their older peers. The quality of the work is exceptional and program participants mutually benefit in the development of their skills and talents.

Udo explains: “DiscoverAbility’s greatest success is our commitment to opening up mentorship opportunities for children, youth and young adults. Our program gives young members of society the unique opportunity to help their community while, at the same time, participating within a hands-on workshop environment.”

She continues: “These kids draw inspiration from each other. It’s amazing to see the emotional depth of the subject matter they choose, the joy and sadness they express through colour, and how easily they can use an artistic medium to whisper or shout a message.”

“At the end of a workshop, these kids are amazed at what they have created. They see first hand the impact they can have on others through art and how it can celebrate, challenge and inspire.”

## **FOUR PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual DiscoverAbility Children and Youth Art Exhibit and Charity Silent Auction**

**Date:** Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Time:** 8 AM to 8 PM  
**Event:** Members of the Public will be able to place bids (silent auction style), on the artwork donated by young artists from DiscoverAbility workshops in Toronto as well as workshops held in the Czech Republic, Hong Kong and Vancouver  
**Where:** Canadian Broadcasting Centre Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front St.  
AND Metro Hall Rotunda, 55 John St.  
(The exhibit at Metro Hall runs from Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> but will be continued at CBC until Feb 28<sup>th</sup>)

### **2. Fifty Toronto VIPs Find “One of a Kind Originals” at the Children’s Art Exhibit and Silent Charity Auction**

**Date:** Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
**Time:** 5:30-6:30pm  
**Event:** Fifty Toronto VIPs will search among 600 “One-of a Kind Originals” at the DiscoverAbility 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Children and Youth Art Exhibit and Charity Silent Auction.  
**Where:** Canadian Broadcasting Centre Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front Street W.

### 3. DiscoverAbility Arts Alive!

**Date:** Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Event:** **Arts Alive!** will be the culmination of this week long event with performances by dancers, musicians and painters from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts, York University, Ontario College of Art and Design, Wexford Collegiate School for the Arts, Earl Haig SS and Claude Watson Art Program.

**FINAL BIDDING CLOSSES AT 8PM**

**Where:** Canadian Broadcasting Centre, Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front Street.

#### **Agenda for the evening:**

5:30-6:25 Pre-Opening  
VIP Gallery Showing  
Unveiling Select Artwork for the 2008 Exhibit  
Storytelling through the Arts  
Arts Demonstrations

6:30 Emcees welcome visitors

6:33 “Suddenly Art” inspired by Vocalists

6:39 Speech: Councillor Michael Thompson

6:45 CCAA Dance Performance “One Moment More”

6:51 Guest Speaker, Daniel D. Brambilla - CEO Sony Centre for the Performing Arts

7:06 Presentation to Daniel D. Brambilla

7:08 York University Dance Performance “Outta My Head”

7:13 Speech, Irene Udo – DiscoverAbility Founder

7:19 CCAA Dance Performance

7:23 “Suddenly Art” inspired by Vocalists

7:29 CCAA Dance and Poem Performance

7:36 Final words from the Emcees and a reminder that bidding for artwork closes at 8PM

8:00 Final Bid Closing

#### **4. Arts Alive! Guest Speaker & Art Presentation**

**Date:** Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Time:** 6:50 PM

**Event:** Guest Speaker Daniel D. Brambilla, CEO, Sony Centre for the Performing Arts, will discuss the importance of the arts in the lives of children, youth and young adults. Brambilla will be presented with a piece of art created by DiscoverAbility artists in appreciation of his support.

**Where:** Canadian Broadcasting Centre, Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front Street.

#### **EVENT LISTING**

##### **The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual DiscoverAbility Art Exhibit and Silent Charity Auction**

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 8 AM to 8 PM

Canadian Broadcasting Centre, Barbara Frum Atrium, 250 Front St. West, Toronto

Metro Hall Rotunda, 55 John Street, Toronto

Six hundreds pieces of art made by young artists will be exhibited and auctioned off to raise funds for charity. The young artists participate in a unique mentoring program, bringing together children and youth to create artwork.

##### **For further information or to set up an interview, please contact:**

Irene Udo, DiscoverAbility Founder

For info visit [www.discoverability.com](http://www.discoverability.com)

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