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***EXPRESSIONS 2011: ART BY D.C. YOUTH* PRESENTED AT THE CORCORAN
FREE Exhibition in Gallery 31
May 26–June 19, 2011**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The special exhibition *Expressions 2011: Art by D.C. Youth* will showcase the art and creativity of young people involved in the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design’s award-winning ArtReach program, which extends the resources of the Corcoran to Washington, D.C. communities through free after-school and summer art classes. Using the Corcoran’s collections as a primary resource, ArtReach fosters visual literacy,



critical thinking skills, and creative expression while encouraging young people to develop meaningful connections between art and their lives.

Expressions 2011, on view from **May 26 to June 19 in Gallery 31** – the Corcoran’s free exhibition space – marks the 19th anniversary of the Corcoran ArtReach program. Inspired by visits to the Corcoran’s recent temporary exhibitions, *Spencer Finch: My Business, With the Cloud* and *Washington Color and Light*, ArtReach students created vibrant works that explore and celebrate themes such as community, creativity, the language of abstraction, motion, color, environment, and identity.

“The Corcoran is premised on the idea that art should be accessible and inclusive to everyone. Creativity assists students to experience the world in a dynamic and innovative way. *Expressions 2011* showcases a vibrant display of student work and exemplifies a truly unique dialogue between the Corcoran’s collections and its surrounding community,” said Melissa Green, director of community partnerships at the Corcoran.

The multimedia installation – which comprises drawing, painting, screenprinting, poetry, and sculpture represents the creativity and breadth of our community – will open with a reception for students, families, and guests at the Corcoran Gallery of Art on **May 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Gallery 31.**

ABOUT CORCORAN ARTREACH



Corcoran ArtReach is a year-round, museum outreach program designed to empower DC youth and families to explore and trust their own creativity within the context of art appreciation and art making. ArtReach partners with community-based organizations in Washington, D.C. to deliver high-quality art programs on-site in the communities it serves. Community Partners include: The Sitar Arts Center in Northwest and Town Hall Education Arts and

Recreation Campus (THEARC) in the Anacostia neighborhood of Southeast.

ArtReach programs are taught by art educators who are dedicated to nurturing young people's creative growth through hands-on learning. They encourage students to look at, discuss, and interpret works of art in the galleries on field trips; experiment with a variety of art materials and methods; and create their own artwork inspired by these experiences. ArtReach has received awards from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and The National Multicultural Institute. For more information on the Corcoran ArtReach program, please visit www.corcoran.org/artreach.

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION AND SPONSORSHIP

Corcoran ArtReach extends special thanks to the following individual, corporate, and foundation donors whose generous contributions have enabled the program to serve more than 250 D.C. youth this year: *D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities, Mr. and Mrs. P. Wesley Foster Jr., The Foundation for Building Bridges, Susan Spicer Angell, The Barbara Epstein Foundation, The Capital City Links, Mark & Carol Hyman Fund, Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation, Hattie M. Strong Foundation and the Weissberg Foundation.*

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869 as America's first dedicated art museum and Washington's first and largest nonfederal museum of art. It is known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.

Images:

Page one: Photo by ArtReach Staff.

Page two: Photo by Melissa Green.

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