

## Art Sparks:

## A Breakthrough Toolkit for Igniting Creativity and Empowerment

*Art Sparks: A Breakthrough Toolkit for Igniting Creativity and Empowerment*, for ages 8-12, breaks new ground by providing a bridge between childhood creativity and personal growth. Complemented by an award-winning film, the multimedia expressive arts program combines three Big Ideas: Self-Worth, Creativity, and the Cosmos / Big History.

Art Sparks' unique socio-emotional tool with art therapy and Big History components yields proven powerful results. The innovative curriculum strengthens emotional quotient (EQ) skills, including classroom engagement, self-esteem, verbal and visual communication, creativity, and empowerment. Art Sparks facilitates intentional acts of self-expression—as embodied experience—in a holistic framework. This is the key to its success. Its six-step methodology can be adapted for various ages, educational venues, and projects.

At a middle school for at-risk youth in New York, a 10-year-old boy transformed dramatically from an anxious loner to a warm relaxed student with significantly improved learning and social skills. His teacher now calls him "the poster child for *Art Sparks*" therapeutic results."

Art Sparks has demonstrated noteworthy outcomes in private and public classrooms in the United States and Europe. Since 2014, Art Sparks has taken San Miguel Academy of Newburgh, New York, from STEM to STEAM. Art Sparks has been presented at graduate programs at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)—one of the country's premier art schools—as well as the 2013 National Art Education Association (NAEA) national convention.

**Imogene Drummond, M.F.A., M.S.W., A.C.S.W.,** is an internationally collected painter, award-winning filmmaker, artist/educator, author of articles on cultural transformation, and former psychotherapist. Her experience, talent, and vision converge in *Art Sparks*. Her article "Options for the Future" is the closing piece in the thought-provoking anthology *The Rule of Mars* (KIT, 2006), endorsed by Pulitzer Prize-winning scientist and author Jared Diamond. Due to her painting expeditions around the world, Drummond became a member of the Society of Woman Geographers whose membership includes explorers of ideas as well as geography, among them Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, and Jane Goodall.

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