

Elementary school art festival will include top local artists

by JENNIFER WASTROM

A surprising number of well known artists and professionals who live and work in the area agreed to share their artistic talents and creativity with children in an up close and personal setting.

This Saturday, April 6, children at Redding Elementary School will witness first-hand the broad and magical world of visual art at the first ever Redding Elementary School Art Festival.

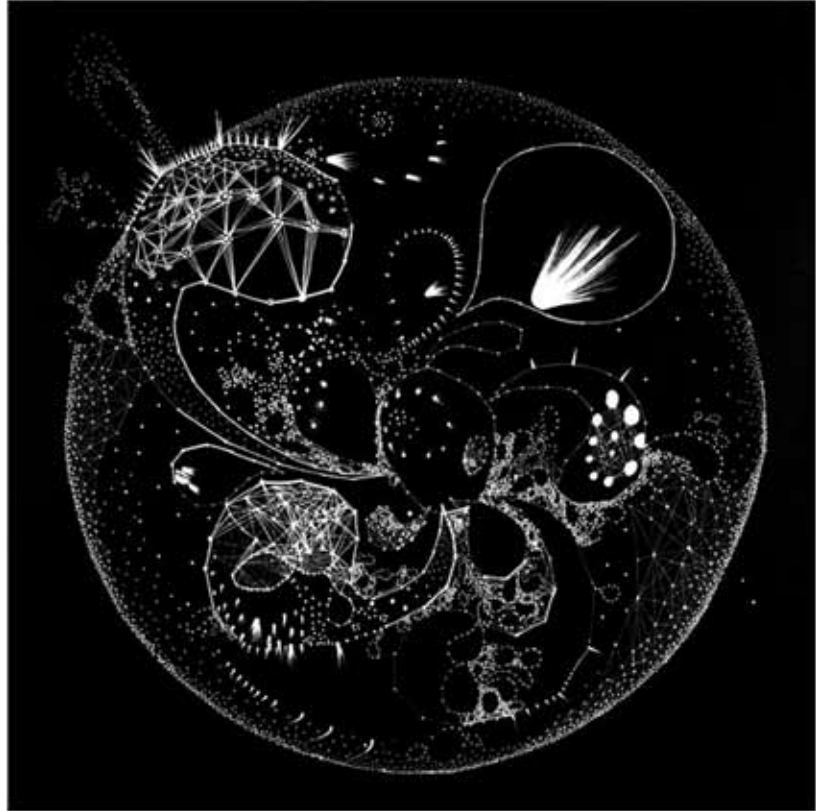
The festival will be from 1 to 4 at the school on Lonetown Road (Route 107). It is sponsored by the elementary school's Parent Teacher Association. Admission is free and it is open to the public.

Redding has a longstanding association with the arts; throughout the last century a surprising number of renowned artists have found their inspiration in the secluded wooded beauty here. The organizers of the arts festival are in the unique position of having this wealth of talent right in their own backyards, talent that is willing to spend an afternoon sharing their skills with the children.

The line-up

The impressive line-up of participants includes representatives from the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Weir Farm, Escape to the Arts and the Ridgefield Guild of Artists. Jimmy Grashow will hold a sculpture workshop, Oskar Martinez will make Polaroid portraits, Susan Durkee will instruct on the art of portrait painting (using Harry Potter as her subject!), Ingrid Lebowitz will be demonstrating silver leafing, and Ridgefield artist Eva Lee will present her "worlds within worlds" — abstract drawings that investigate "the physicality of our world and the constructed world of science."

Also on hand will be commercial art directors Steve Bodkin and Mary Jo Roberts; David Cramer, a furni-



Ridgefield artist Eva Lee will be demonstrating her techniques for abstract drawings, made with white ink on black paper, at the first annual Redding Elementary School Arts Festival. Pictured above an abstract drawing by Ms. Lee called "World Cell."

ture maker; and Kathleen Lopes will demonstrate the craft of weaving. Joni Johns, a Broadway costume designer, will show fabric painting and Richard Lerner will be sharing some creative techniques of digital photography.

The art teachers at the elementary school, Becky Holden and Karen Feld, will also take part in the festivities: Ms. Holden with "Found Object Sculpture Making" and Ms. Feld with "Tile Glazing for A Flag Mural."

Some special performance groups are also scheduled.

The organizers of the festival, Margaret Roleke Rooney, Elizabeth

Meville and Liz Spears, are looking for donations of art supplies; anyone interested in contributing or for more information should call Mrs. Rooney at 938-0877. Sponsors to date include Eric and Michael's restaurant in Wilton, and the Sandella and Nazzaro families.

Redding Elementary School's P.T.A. is affiliated with the Parent Teacher Association of Connecticut, whose mission is to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, to assist parents, and to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.