

## **The Madre Project**

### **An artistic collaboration with The Art Circle in Camden and Safe Passage in Guatemala**

The Madre Project is based on the concept of Madre or Mother and giving children a unique opportunity to create a powerful statement as they explore through their art the question "Who is my mother?"

Under the artistic direction of Antonia Munroe, twenty three Guatemalan children who participate in the art program at Safe Passage in Guatemala City and twenty children who attended the Madre Project workshop at the Art Circle in Camden created stunning mixed-media portraits of their mothers. The artists ranged in age from 6 to 18 years old.

The Madre Project collaboration was initiated by artist teacher Ms. Munroe who in 1993 founded The Art Circle, summer art workshops for children. She has also volunteered as an artist-in-residence with Safe Passage since 2005. Carlyn Wright-Eakes, coordinator of the Camino Seguro (Safe Passage) art program, assisted Munroe in Guatemala and traveled to Maine in August to participate in the Art Circle workshop. The portraits and photographs of the Safe Passage residency documented by volunteer James Lawrence of Rockport have been exhibited at the public libraries in Rockport and Yarmouth, Maine. Munroe also taught a Madre Project workshop at the Ames School in Searsmont through a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

The final exhibit for the Madre Project will culminate in November in Guatemala.

The Safe Passage Madre portraits and Lawrence's photographs will be the focus of a three day festival at El Sitio, ([www.el sitio proyecto cultural](http://www.el sitio proyecto cultural)) a beautiful center for Guatemalan art and culture in the city of Antigua, 45 minutes from Guatemala City. Part of the proceeds from the Art Circle workshop will be used to fund the art exhibit and to transport the young artists and their families from Camino Seguro to El Sitio for the grand "Noche de Gala" on Thursday, November 11th. Exactly one year later, the Madre portraits will be returned to their creators who so willingly loaned us their work!

Safe Passage is a non-profit organization, based in Yarmouth, Maine whose mission is to help make the dream of education a reality for the poverty- stricken children whose families work in the Guatemala City garbage dump. The Art Program at Safe Passage was formed in March 2009 by Nell Pierce, a volunteer from Maine and is now headed by Ms. Wright-Eakes from North Carolina. The program began with 145 students receiving art classes for one hour a week. In January 2010 the Safe Passage board of directors approved art and music for 314 students from first grade through high school. The Art Program provides opportunities for expression that foster self-esteem, leadership, confidence and responsibility. As students immerse themselves in the creative process they are motivated to stay in school and empowered to take a stand against social risks such as drugs and gang violence.

Through the Madre Project collaboration the Art Circle hopes to raise continuing awareness in the mid-coast area and beyond about the mission of Safe Passage. ([www.safe passage.org](http://www.safe passage.org))

Please enjoy our show and write in our guest book. We welcome your comments.

**Fiesta Reception: Saturday October 16th from 3 to 5 p.m.**

**This event is free and all are welcome!**

*Thank you so much! Muchisimas Gracias!*