

**Swords into Plowshares partners with Progressive Art Studio Collective on new exhibition:
“Art is a Human Right”**

Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery will open a new exhibition of artwork by artists from the Progressive Art Studio Collective (PASC) entitled “*Art is a Human Right*” on January 7th at their downtown gallery space (33 East Adams ave). The show will feature more than 40 works by artists from PASC, working in a variety of mediums and styles, and will run through March 11th.

Launched in January of 2021, PASC is a studio and exhibitions program dedicated to supporting artists with developmental disabilities and mental health concerns to advance independent artistic practices and help them develop careers in the arts. PASC is a program of Services to Enhance Potential (STEP) a nonprofit organization that provides services and support to 1300+ individuals with developmental disabilities and mental health issues in South-East Michigan.

The show reflects the varied practices of PASC artists and the group’s “progressive” approach. Instead of being pushed into a prescribed curriculum, PASC artists are supported to pursue whatever artwork and style interests them. Artists draw from direct engagement with their medium, and visual references to explore different forms of creation. This approach allows artists to dive into artwork that speaks to their interests and receive support in exploring styles and approaches that inspire them. This method inspires a wide range of creative outputs from the artists, referencing art history as well as their personal creative journeys.

“With ‘*Art is a Human Right*’ we are excited to share the artwork of over 40 artists from the PASC program to the larger public,” said PASC Director Anthony Marcellini. “We are particularly excited to be presenting artwork by artists who have disabilities at such a historically and politically important Detroit Gallery as Swords Into Plowshares, and through this exhibition together we are raising awareness that all people deserve the right to express themselves creatively.”

Swords into Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery is a community focused space located on East Adams in downtown Detroit. In operation since 1985, the Gallery hosts art exhibitions, musical performances, public education events and meetings, as they work to build a world where peace is possible. “Art is a Human Right” is their second show since they re-opened after a hiatus during the first year of the pandemic.

“We are glad to be collaborating with PASC on this exciting exhibition, giving us the chance to give an audience to the incredible work being done by the artists and the program in general.” Said Ian Matchett, Swords into Plowshares Director. “Art is often cordoned off into a narrowly defined collection of artmakers and institutions. Our gallery firmly believes that art is for the people, and we are glad to have an opportunity to share the work of artists that are not regularly recognized by the art world writ large.”

In order to keep the event as safe as possible all attendees are asked to reserve tickets in advance and to wear a mask at all times during the show. The exhibition will remain on view at Swords into Plowshare Peace Center and Gallery during their regular open hours: 1-6pm Fridays and Saturday.

To reserve Tickets please go to the [Swords into Plowshares Eventbrite page](#) or the “Art is a Human Right” Facebook event page.