

Parent and Guardian FAQs

What is Spotlight?

Spotlight is an annual program that invites students to make creative responses to one work of art in the Museum's collection. Started in 2011, the program engages thousands of students, educators, and their families within and outside the Museum through workshops, tours, and community events. This year, the Spotlight program features [Ian Dawson's *Henri and Henrietta*](#).

Who is Ian Dawson?

Learn more about the artist and the work of art online by visiting our [Ian Dawson Spotlight Resource](#) page.

Does the artwork have to be about the Spotlight object?

The Spotlight artwork is intended to inspire students and be a gateway to new ideas. They can take inspiration from the artist, the process, the artwork, and other artworks by the artist. We encourage creativity and hope that student responses are unique and bold. Spotlight also encourages experimentation. Students learn problem solving skills as they experiment, evaluate the results, and adapt their approach.

Are there any restrictions to consider when submitting art?

This year, we ask that projects submitted are no larger than 4'x4'x4'. The gallery space is shared, and we hope to show as many student projects as possible. Small, individual, or collaborative projects are preferred. If you submit a large body of individual artworks, then a select portion of the objects will be chosen to represent the whole. We cannot accept any artworks with organic materials such as but not limited to dried flowers, sticks, sand, or scented materials. For more information on this program, email education@mcnayart.org.

What is the Spotlight Celebration?

The culmination of this year-long focus is the Spotlight Celebration in May 2024, where students have a forum to showcase their finished projects and talk about their creative process. This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

Who can attend the Spotlight Celebration?

Parents, teachers, administrators, and friends are invited to this celebration. This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

How do I register to attend the Spotlight Celebration?

If your artist is an Elementary student, then you can register **HERE (coming soon)**.

If your artist is a Middle or High school student, then you can register **HERE (coming soon)**.

This is a free event and registration is required to attend.

When and where can I view my student's artwork?

Due to the high volume of artworks submitted each year, the Spotlight Exhibition is broken into three rotations. All artwork submitted by teachers and students will be on display in the Patio Gallery or the Valero Learning Centers from Sunday, May 18, 2024 - Sunday, May 26, 2024, to allow everyone attending the Celebration days to view their student artwork.

All artworks in the Patio Gallery will remain on view until the next scheduled rotation date. All artworks in the Valero Learning Centers will be stored until their scheduled rotation. You can view the rotation schedule **HERE (coming soon)**. Rotation dates are subject to change.

How is my student artwork returned?

Teachers from each campus are responsible for coordinating with a Museum Educator at the McNay to drop off and pick up artwork. Parents and Guardians can coordinate with the teachers to have their student artwork returned to them.

Important Spotlight Dates 2023 – 2024

Spotlight Exhibition Opens (Rotation I)

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Spotlight Celebration Dates

Middle and High School Recognition

Sunday, May 19, 2024

12 – 5 PM, exact school presentation times TBD

Elementary School Recognition

Sunday, May 26, 2024

12 – 5 PM, exact school presentation times TBD

McNay Contact Information

Michelle Treviño

Semmes Foundation Education Manager

michelle.trevino@mcnayart.org

210.805.1766