



DEAR ARTIST

You are invited to participate in Artwell's Exhibition BLOCK PARTY, art made from/on/about wooden blocks. If you wish to participate you will receive your blocks via mail. You may use them in a work of art as you see fit. All mediums accepted.

Exhibition Fees and Other Information:

To cover costs we require \$15 per artist. The coordinators of the exhibition are looking for additional venues for the exhibition.

CREATIVE BENEFITS children receive creative stimulation by making their own designs with blocks.

HISTORY*

1693: Alphabet Nursery Blocks were originally developed in 17th Century England. The philosopher John Locke, in 1693, made the statement that "dice and playthings, with letters on them to teach children the alphabet by playing" would make learning to read a more enjoyable experience.

1798: The earliest mention of building bricks for children appeared in Maria and R.L. Edgeworth's Practical Education (1798). Called "rational toys," blocks were intended to teach children about gravity and physics, as well as spatial relationships that allow them to see how many different parts become a whole.

BLOCK PARTY

August 28 – Sept 19

RECEPTION

Saturday, August 28 6–8pm

MISSION

To help demonstrate and honor the physical, social, and creative impact of this most basic of toys. To illustrate the foundations of art using form as a basic for content.

1820: The first large-scale production of blocks was in the Williamsburg area of Brooklyn by S.L. Hill, who patented *ornamenting wood*, a patent related to painting or coloring a block surface prior to the embossing process and then adding another color after the embossing to have multi-colored blocks.

1850: During the mid-Nineteenth Century, Henry Cole (under the pseudonym of Felix Summerly) wrote a series of children's books. Cole's *A Book of Stories* from The Home Treasury included a box of terracotta toy blocks and, in the accompanying pamphlet *Architectural Pastime*, actual blueprints.

2003: National Toy of Fame at the Strong Museum, inducted ABC blocks into their collection, granting it the title of one of America's toys of national significance.

*http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toy_block

TIME LINE

aug 1	title information due
aug 21 & 22	drop off work to Artwell
aug 28	opening/reception: 6-8pm

CONSTRAINTS

- 1 you must use three blocks
- 2 you may use the cardboard box the objects come in
- 3 you may use any medium
- 4 you may add but you can not subtract the number of blocks
- 5 you must provide a base for three dimensional work; it should be part of the work of art
- 6 you must help install the show
- 7 if the show travels you must move your own work
- 8 you will be expected to gallery sit or pay the standard \$10 fee (in addition to exhibition fee)

BENEFITS OF BLOCKS

PHYSICAL BENEFITS toy blocks build strength in a child's fingers and hands, and improve eye-hand coordination. They also help educate children about different shapes.

SOCIAL BENEFITS block play encourages children to make friends and cooperate, and is often one of the first experiences a child has playing with others. Blocks are a benefit for the children because they encourage interaction and imagination. Creativity can be a combined action that is important for social play.

INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS children can potentially develop their vocabularies as they learn to describe sizes, shapes, and positions. Math skills are developed through the process of grouping, adding, and subtracting, particularly with standardized blocks, such as unit blocks. Experience with gravity, balance, and geometry learned from toy blocks also provide intellectual stimulation.

REGISTER!

fill this out if you enter by mail or pick up your blocks at Artwell

I agree to the constraints and fees.

Send this printed form along with your \$15.00 entry fee (checks made out to Artweell) by US mail to:

Susan Berg
385 Park Ave
Torrington CT 06790

Artist name:

Artist address:

Artist email address:

Questions? sberg@meca.edu