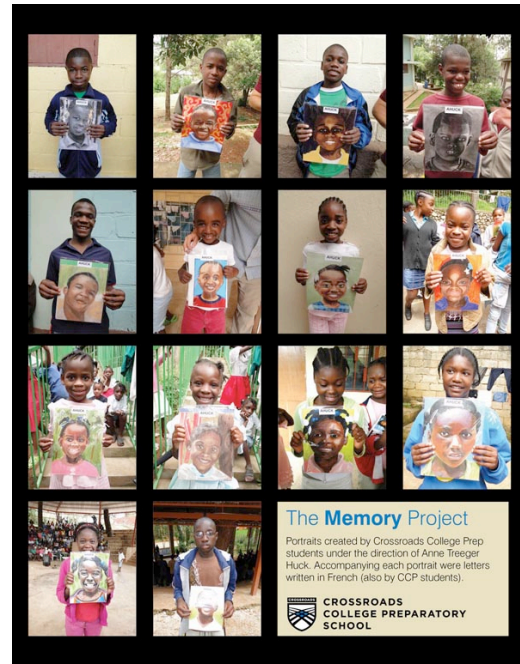


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Artwork: A press-quality pdf is available to
the media for download at:
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PORTRAITS WITH A PURPOSE

Crossroads College Prep Students Paint Haitian Orphans as Part of the Memory Project

St. Louis, MO, August 25, 2010—It is the first day of school at Crossroads College Prep and many students are greeted with news about a project they completed during the second semester of the past school year. Just last week, art teacher and project coordinator Anne Treeger Huck received an email message and photos from the director of the Memory Project, Ben Schumaker.

“I’m happy to let you know that the kids in Haiti have received your gifts,” Mr. Schumaker’s message reads. “In a place that has endured so much suffering this year, the portraits caused a huge amount of excitement, happiness, and pride. While the portraits were being delivered this weekend, kids crowded around shoulder to shoulder to watch each one being handed out. Their school is located on the orphanage grounds, and on Monday morning many of them brought their portraits to display in class.”

The Memory Project (www.memoryproject.com) is a unique initiative in which art students create portraits for children and teens around the world who have been orphaned, abandoned, neglected, or otherwise disadvantaged. The student artists receive pictures of the children and use them to create the portraits.

The portraits were painted as part of a painting and drawing elective, one of 12 art classes offered at Crossroads College Prep. To create the portraits, students first learned self-portraiture using only gray-tones (a technique called grisaille) and then color mixing techniques. Students then watched a PowerPoint presentation about the Memory Project and received the photos of their child to paint.

“Initially, students feared they may not live up to the daunting task of recreating the likenesses and capturing the spirits of the children in their photographs, in particular after watching the power point and seeing the high quality of previous memory portraits,” explains Treeger Huck. “But once immersed in the process, students gained confidence and motivation through the connection they formed with their subjects and with their growing understanding of the deep meaning and profound experience inherent in the project. Ultimately, they were all extremely proud and excited to give the beautiful, vibrant tributes that resulted from weeks of hard work to those who inspired them.”

BACKGROUND (www.crossroadscollegeprep.org):

Founded in 1974 and located in the Central West End, Crossroads College Preparatory School is an independent school offering an academically challenging curriculum to a diverse and inclusive community of students in grades seven through twelve.

Crossroads College Prep encourages its students to engage their imaginations in every endeavor, ranging from the sciences to the fine arts, and strives to develop respectful citizens, who apply scholarship, imagination, and critical thinking to civic and social responsibility in their communities and beyond.

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