



ARAS Pioneer Teens, Summer 2014

Over the last few years, ARAS has been working with teenagers to discover the world through art and symbols. We have established an exciting internship program and a two-week free summer program called Pioneer Teens during which the students learn different skills and techniques in art-making to create works of art inspired by a visual symbol of their choice from the Archive. To further inspire and deepen their understanding of art, the program includes fieldtrips to cultural institutions, galleries and artists' studios. The program culminates in an open house with an exhibition of the teens' art work expressed in any format chosen such as drawing, painting, collage, or sculpture, accompanied by an artist's statement.



Collaborative art work on the symbols Mandrake and Phoenix

The artwork that the teens have made during this program has been extraordinary. Seeing the teens get inspired by symbols and how they can be portrayed cross-culturally in art is very exciting for us as it really demonstrates the potential of the ARAS archive.



Art work by teen on the symbol of Shipwreck/Ocean.

The program has been a great success and we are hoping to build on that going forward. The feedback we have received from our participants has been very positive:

“I can think of few programs that are as unique, authentic, and enriching as ARAS. Here, I have learned about ideas that very few high school students have access to. ARAS not only enriches one’s mind, but it also illuminates one’s soul as students learn about the images that pervade their dreams, thoughts, and culture.”

- Benjamin Stevens, ARAS Pioneer Teen

“I have been to many art programs around the city, but none of them have done for me what ARAS has. ARAS has exposed me to the world of symbols and their significance in our everyday lives. With being surrounded by an archive of symbols at ARAS, both online and off, as well as myriads of books, I learned about the importance of adding meaning to art. Here, I was able to think deeply about a symbol and create original art work that included it.”

- Hri Bernard, ARAS Pioneer Teen

For more information about our teen program, please see our Tumblr blog here.
<http://araseducation.tumblr.com/>