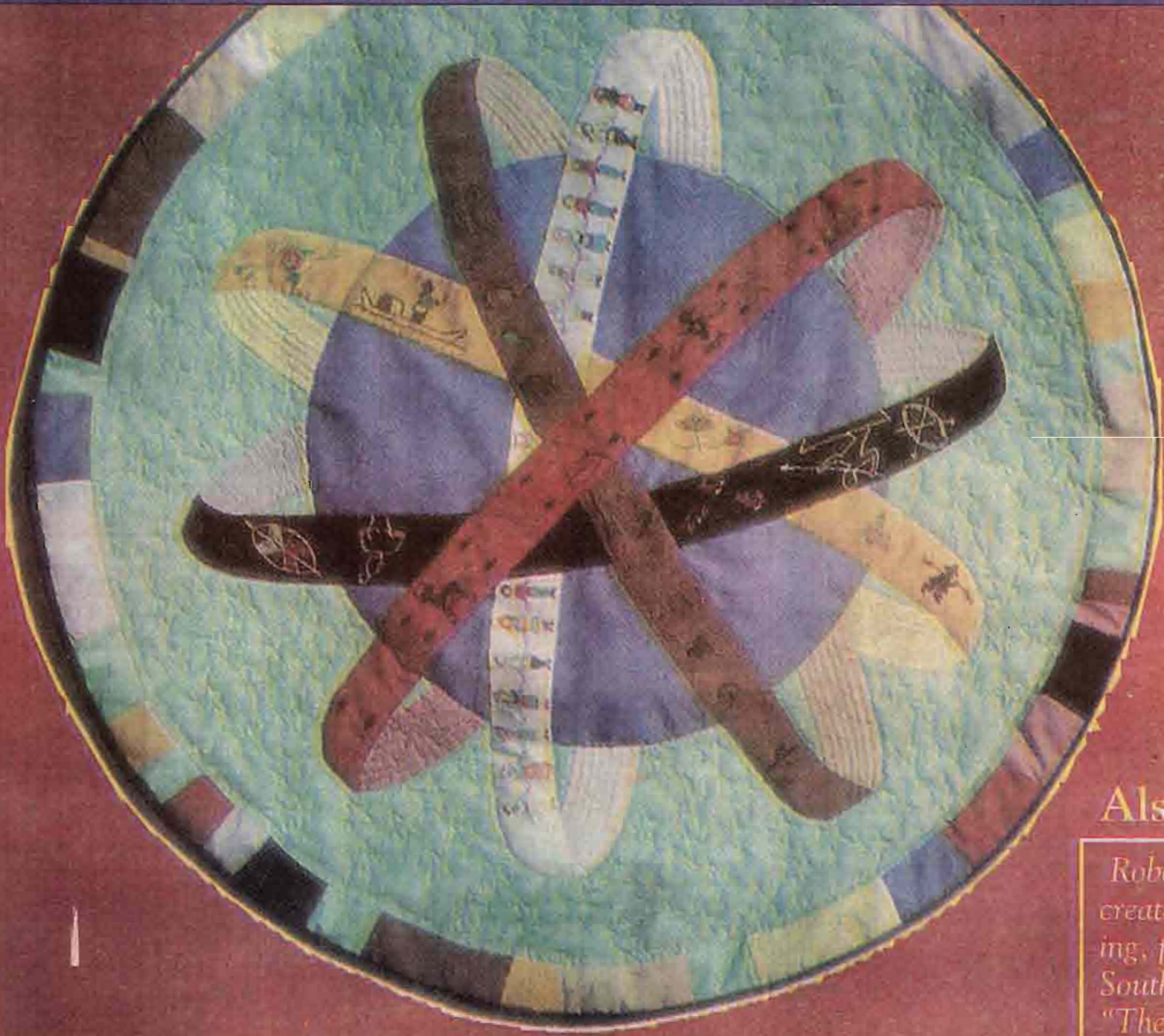


STARLIGHT

TUCSON'S ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



Cover story:

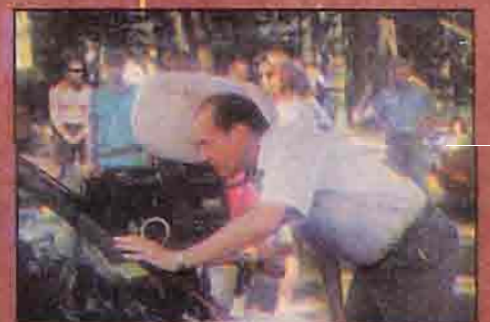
How do you create global unity? Make art about global unity, spread it around six continents and hope people get the point. That's the goal of the Global Art Project.

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Also inside:

Robert Duvall creates a glowing, pristinely Southern world in "The Apostle."

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Art connects the world

Tucson woman rides herd on global project

By Timothy Gassen
Special to the Arizona Daily Star

The phone chirps, the UPS man knocks at the door he's seen a thousand times before, e-mail from Russia and a fax from Bangkok wait to be answered. The third biennial Global Art Project is less than a month away, and its director, Katherine Josten, needs more space.

"This room is my kitchen, my living room and my board room," says a smiling Josten, surrounded by mounds of GAP literature, packages and artwork.

Like the first two Global Art Projects in 1994 and 1996, the 1998 version is headquartered in her modest university-area two-room apartment.

The Global Art Project is Josten's personal mission to promote international cooperation through artistic expression. She created this event, in which participants are matched with others around the world, each producing a work of art and then exchanging it.

Exhibitions of the art — created around the themes of peaceful co-existence, understanding and global unity — have helped to snowball interest for this year's exchange.

"Participation doubled from the first to the second time to more than 10,000 people of all kinds," says Josten, "and there should be many more for this third GAP."

"Managing this upcoming one hasn't been as difficult as the first or second one, but there are so many new challenges," continues Josten.

"There are growing pains with the GAP, because it's gained such momentum. It stays challenging, and it keeps me growing."

Josten's grand vision reaches improbably across the globe from her tiny apartment, and her persistence and tireless devotion provide tangible proof to cynics that one person can make a difference — by inspiring others.

"People who are cynical are really disappointed idealists," says Josten softly, "so what we have to do is inspire the idealist in people. If you take positive action toward your highest ideal, then you can approach things like the GAP thinking, 'Maybe I'm just one person, but I know I'm doing what I



Catherine Chewing of Tucson was 9 when she presented this drawing in 1996

How you can participate in the global project

You have a vision in your heart, a pen or paintbrush in your hand, and you want to be a part of the 1998 Global Art Project. Here's what you do:

Participants send their name, address and a suggested \$12 donation to the GAP, postmarked by Feb. 28. The GAP will then match participants with others throughout the world.

"We want to make the GAP break all boundaries," says director Katherine Josten. "We have senior citizen groups, nurs-

ery schools, professional artists, all contributing to the GAP. We've had a lot of families participate, and we match them with other families around the world.

"The only criteria we have is that we match group to group and person to person, and try to match participants as far away from each other as possible," she says.

The 1998 GAP will then be executed in three stages:

First, in March, participants

will create their art in any chosen medium — including visual or literary art, audio or video.

Next, for the first three weeks of April, the artists are encouraged to exhibit their creations in their own communities.

Finally, in the last week of April, participants will exchange their artwork (through the mail) with the person or group with which they've been matched. Participants can then display the art they've received.

— Timothy Gassen

can. Then you're making a difference."

Josten provides constant elbow grease for the project's endless administrative chores, but the longtime Tucson painter is quick to thank others for their support and generous donations.

"There have been many, many volunteers in Tucson and around

the world who have given their time and energy to make the GAP possible," she says.

Tucson businesses Mayer Graphics and Photographic Works Lab have donated significant services, Parhelion Press in Phoenix created the project's website, and

Microsoft chipped in with computer software.

The Massachusetts-based Artifact Press Ltd. also paid for the printing of a postcard book featuring GAP works. The full-color book features 30 images from the debut GAP in 1994, and is available through a few Tucson specialty shops, including the

Tucson Museum of Art gift shop. Josten also sells the books by mail order.

"Because of donations and sales from the book of postcards, we're now able to meet expenses," says Josten, who has regularly paid many costs from her own shallow pockets.

"I've done everything on an absolute shoestring," Josten says with a sigh. "I've never been paid, and I've worked more than full time for the past five years without pay."

"I'm not complaining, I'm grateful for this opportunity," she continues, "but now it's time to take the Global Art Project to the next higher level."

Though Josten has patched together tenuous funds and services for 1998, she realizes the GAP can grow only with a more extensive organization and office space that doesn't overlap onto her breakfast table.

"The GAP has been growing out of grass-roots excitement, so I know with some funding it could explode," she says. "I need a development director, someone who can take charge of fund-raising. We're at a growth spot right now where this could become enormous."

Josten has seen the GAP blossom from her personal vision into an interconnected effort in more than 35 countries across six continents.

She says her concept of peaceful exchange has grown too large — touched too many souls — to let it wither now.

"I can see the possibilities, and that's why I've given my time," she says enthusiastically. "I can see that it is impacting people in a positive way, and that's why I keep going."

"The year 2000 will be a big one for the GAP," she continues, a smile filling her face. "We'll be bringing in the millennium with a positive, uplifting vision. I think we're all beginning to realize what we need now is to bring people together."

"And I think this is our next evolutionary step, to realize that, 'Yes, there can be peace, that together we can make anything happen,'" Josten says, leaning back in her chair, glancing at one of her nearby paintings.

"That's the whole idea behind the Global Art Project."



Bruce McClelland, The Arizona Daily Star

**"People joined together with a clear intent
have an incredible power to change the world."**

- Katherine Josten, director, Global Art Project



Photos by Katherine Josten, Special to The Arizona Daily Star

Participants at Taipei American School

280 in Hiroshima took part in '96

Japan: Two hundred and eighty people in Hiroshima participated in the 1996 Global Art Project. "The people in Hiroshima were particularly excited to participate in this peaceful project," says Josten, "because it was near the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb."

Taiwan: Ten organizations are creating peace-related murals to be displayed throughout the city of Taipei for the 1998 Global Art Project.

New York City: A recent phone message from the Norwegian Consulate General says, "This is a very important project. It is urgent that you call as soon as possible so we can get the information out to the people of Norway."



Taipei American School student with some of the 1996 artwork.

Josten is available to present slide shows

"I encourage groups to call and arrange a slide show, where I can show images from past GAPs and explain our goals," says Josten. "When people see the visuals, then they get excited about the project and want to become involved."

For more information and registration materials, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Global Art Project, P.O. Box 40445, Tucson, AZ 85717, or phone 628-8353.

E-mail GAP director Josten at josten@concentric.net or visit a gallery of previous GAP art at its website: <http://www.global-art.org>