



**Title:** Gather, Imagine, Create, Inspire: Transforming the Everyday into the Extraordinary

**Artist:** Children enrolled at the Child Development Center for Learning & Research @ Virginia Tech

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**Website:** n/a

**Brief Artist Biography:** The artists of this work include children, ages 15 months to 5 years, teachers, and families from the Virginia Tech Child Development Center for Learning and Research. The Child Development Center for Learning and Research at Virginia Tech is based on the schools of Reggio Emilia, which also is grounded in social constructivist theory such that knowledge and understanding are constructed through social interactions. The interactions are driven mostly by the children. Project or art works are encouraged and inspired by the many ways in which children represent their learning and understanding of the world, referred to as the “hundred languages of

children” (Edwards, Gandini, Forman, 1998). The wide variety of recycled materials for this project were assembled from the artistic perspective of the eyes of a child exploring their environment and making their creativity seen by the world. As Loris Malaguzzi’s poem goes:

The child is made of one hundred.  
The child has  
a hundred languages  
a hundred hands  
a hundred thoughts  
a hundred ways of thoughts  
a hundred ways of thinking  
of playing, of speaking  
a hundred always a hundred ways of listening  
of marveling, of loving  
a hundred joys  
for singing and understanding  
a hundred worlds to discover  
a hundred worlds to invent  
a hundred worlds to dream.  
.....  
And thus they tell the child  
That the hundred is not there.  
The child says:  
No way the hundred is there.

**Art Statement:**

Children have a hundred languages to express, create, explore, think, talk, sing, discover, listen, dream...

The way a child perceives the world around them and how they express their unlimited creative potential is unique. The eyes of a child are open to see the world in different colors and textures. Through materials that are common in our daily lives, like plastic and metal lids, fabric and bells, children in the CDCLR have created a way to invite you to explore, see, feel and listen their world.

*What do you see?* Look closely and you will be able to see through the eyes of children.