

FINDING THE GENIUS IN EVERY CHILD



It may have been Pablo Picasso's most famous, or at least his most copied, saying: *"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."*

The Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center and the Delta Visual and Performing Arts Project have sought for several years to address the great artist's "problem" with an annual art camp where a brilliant contemporary artist, Johana Nichols, works with students to bring out and develop their natural artistic talents. Nichols is a rare and talented scholar and artist, but he combines those abilities with the instincts of a teacher, who works with each child to recognize his or her instincts and to turn them into artistic expressions.

BGACDC's and the Delta Art Project's goal is for students to produce the artwork so they can make a profit by selling the artwork. Nichols has brought his magic to Phillips County and other spots in the Delta every year for three years. The goal is to turn the student into an entrepreneur with a passion for art by producing and selling it. Students sell each artwork for \$12, of which BGACDC gets ten percent. It shows children how fun art can be and helps them express themselves in their own unique way in hopes of making a career out of it when they are older.

Since the summer of 2019, Nichols has made the pilgrimage to demonstrate to children the basics of drawing and painting, such as brushwork, color, spacing, light and shadow. He works with each student to develop their imagination by asking questions about their drawing and what they think, see, or imagine. He urges the use of color to bring out children's creativity to give life to the work. Children do their paintings, and Nichols frames them to sell them online at <https://www.depop.com/deltavisualandperformingarts/>