

## YouthFusion: May 2008

A Spoken Word, Exhibition, and Film Series Celebrating the Work of Boston's Teen Artists

### Schedule of Events:

All YouthFusion events are free and open to the public, and take place at Cloud Place:

647 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116 (call 617.262.2949 for more information or directions)

Free refreshments are served at all events!

- May 9, 2008: 6:00-8:00pm at Cloud Place
  - Teen Spoken Word Performance and teen open mic night hosted by the Cloud Place Teen Performance Curators. With special guest performers Iyeoka Okoawo and the Jeff Robinson Trio.
- May 16, 2008: 4:30-8:00pm at Cloud Place
  - Violence Transformed teen visual art exhibition opening reception (4:30-6:30pm)
  - Cloud Place Teen Film Curators' National Teen Film Series screening (6:30-8pm)

### The Details:

*Teen Spoken Word Performance & Open Mic (performance on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm)*

For their third Cloud Place open mic of 2008, the Teen Spoken Word Curators will reprise their *Violence Transformed* program, first performed at the Massachusetts State House in April, 2008. This powerful body of work explores young people's responses to violence in the world and in their communities, bringing the immediacy of their personal histories and transformations to the stage. High-school poets (ages 14-19) are invited to the mic to perform original work. (Doors open at 5:45, and admission ends at 6:30. Teen open mic performers must arrive at Cloud Place by 5:45 to sign up for a performance slot.) *Images and quotes available upon request – contact Alison Kotin at 617.262.2949 or akotin@cloudfoundation.org.*

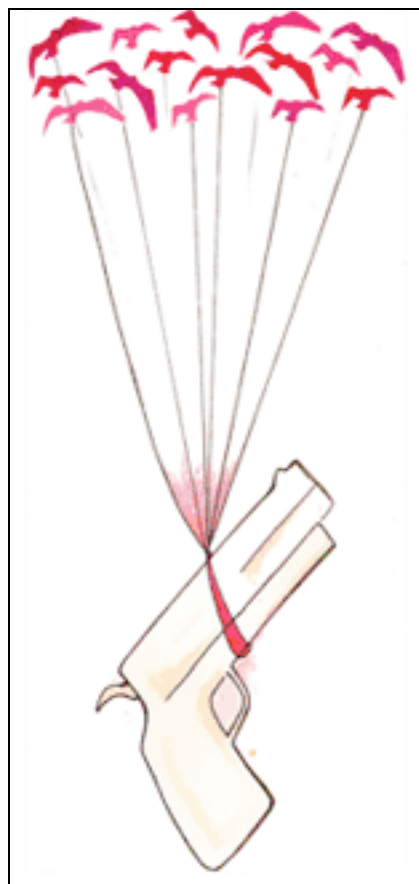
*Violence Transformed: visual art exhibition (opening reception on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm / exhibition dates: May 6 – June 30, 2008)*

Featuring artworks in many media from teens across the Boston Area, *Violence Transformed* explores teen artists' strategies for coping with violence in their lives through artmaking and personal expression. The Teen Visual Art Curators write: "Sirens on the streets, bullets coming through the TV; violence in all of its forms is a driving force in our lives. As teenagers in Boston and in America, our eye-level view of the streets gives us a different perspective on the violence which runs through them – but all too often, there is no opportunity for us to share this viewpoint with the rest of the world. This show aims to make our voices heard. We believe that violence affects everyone and feel that this collection of artwork illustrates stories of violence and survival from many young voices and in many media." *Images available upon request – contact Alison Kotin at 617.262.2949 or akotin@cloudfoundation.org.*

*Teen Film Screening (screening on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm)*

From documentaries, to comedy, to horror, the Teen Film Curators select short films by young people that showcase teen perspectives that are often absent from Hollywood productions. The Teen Film Curators have compiled a program of new short films by young people from Boston, Lynn, Seattle, and beyond. The teen filmmakers and curators will hold a Q&A for audience members after the screening to discuss their work and ideas.

The Cloud Foundation's Teen Curatorial Program gives high school students from metro-Boston a setting in which to express their opinions on art, film, performance, and design, and to create exhibitions and events that express their artistic vision and showcase an authentic teen perspective. Collectively, the 34 Teen Film, Visual Art, Spoken Word, and Graphic Design Curators create exhibitions and performances of teen artwork for the *YouthFusion* event series, bringing over 1,200 audience members and 200 teen artists to Cloud Place annually.



Untitled. Pen and watercolor by Julia R., age 18. Teen Visual Art Curator

**The Cloud Foundation** supports innovative programs that build confidence, ambition, and hope in Boston's youth through artistic creation and cross-cultural communication. ([www.cloudfoundation.org](http://www.cloudfoundation.org))

**The Teen Curatorial Program** is funded by a grant from an Anonymous Foundation, and run in partnership with the UrbanArts Institute and the Center for Art and Community Partnerships at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design ([www.massart.edu/partnerships](http://www.massart.edu/partnerships)).

For more information on the Cloud Foundation, or to schedule a visit to Cloud Place, please visit [www.cloudfoundation.org](http://www.cloudfoundation.org) or call Alison Kotin at 617.262.2949. Cloud Place is located at 647 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.