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SKETCH | 180 Sudbury | Toronto, Ontario | M6J 3H2 | sketch.ca

Attention: Arts and Entertainment Editor | Culture Editor | Community Blog Editor

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Community Mural Unveiling Celebrates Women in Visual Arts and Martial Arts in Toronto's East End

DeSantos Martial Arts-SKETCH collaboration emerges from East End roots.

Toronto; October 16, 2012. On Saturday, October 27th, from 11AM to 2PM, DeSantos Martial Arts and SKETCH are proud to unveil a stunning 100-foot-long, community-focused mural displayed on the DeSantos Martial Arts' south-facing wall at 170 Main Street in Toronto's East End.

The StART-funded mural, entitled "KIA: Unified Movement of Power", originated from a series of consultations led by young women artists from SKETCH and the East End community—many of whom attend DeSantos Martial Arts. These participants worked together with SKETCH to shape the murals' themes through discussions on community, graffiti, mural art and how creativity inspires their own lives. The mural then came to life through the summer-long work of visual artists Grace Channer and Sandra Brewster, and emerging artist Jay Stewart.

Brewster says the public's reaction to both the theme and its evolving depiction has been encouraging, "Kia is an energizing breath that is expressed through martial-arts movement. We have received so much positive response from the neighbourhood. People have been honking their horns, inquiring about our process and sharing their excitement around the development of the mural and how much it will benefit the community."

The Founders of SKETCH and DeSantos Martial Arts, Phyllis Novak and Veronica DeSantos respectively, have East End roots. DeSantos says the mural will play an important part in beautifying and celebrating the community, "As someone who not only has her business, but also lives in the Upper Beaches, I am very excited by this mural. Initially it was a means to stop the building from being 'tagged' with graffiti but it has turned into a beautiful compilation of positive energy and movement that incorporates the many facets of this community."

There will be more than just the unveiling for spectators to take pleasure in. During the October 27 event, attendees can enjoy free refreshments and martial-arts demonstrations, and kids can work with the visual artists in adding final touches to the mural.

About [DeSantos Martial Arts](#):

Owned and operated by martial arts Hall of Famer, Veronica DeSantos, a master in Tae-Kwon-Do and Karate, DeSantos Martial Arts has been combining training with fitness and self-discovery in programs for both children and adults for 25 years in the East End Community. DeSantos members are active in helping schools and community events with fundraising, and working with those in our community who are less fortunate. Acts of kindness are a part of the core curriculum. Contact: 210 Main Street, Toronto ON, M4E 2W1, or call 416.699.5078.

About [SKETCH](#):

Founded 16 years ago, SKETCH exists to foster creativity, self-discovery, and personal empowerment for youth who are street involved and homeless—all in an atmosphere of safety, freedom and acceptance. 825 youth were engaged in arts and skill-building workshops in 2010. To continue providing opportunities to the growing number of young people living on the margins, SKETCH will be constructing a new 7,500-square-foot creative space on Shaw Street in 2013.



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Status of Women
Canada

Condition féminine
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