

**NEWS RELEASE**

Mexico City

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**THE MEXICAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
PROMOTES THE ART OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO  
HAVE DOWN SYNDROME**

*The Children's Hospital of Mexico named "Federico Gómez" will be the gallery where the oil paintings created by youngsters with special needs will be exhibited.*

*A group of lady painters with Down Syndrome will attend Women's International Day, next March 8<sup>th</sup>.*

The Mexican Ministry of Health is promoting the pictorial art created by young people who have Down Syndrome as an opportunity to give this sector of the population a better self-esteem and a dignified space in society, said Arturo Kemchs, Director of the Down Art Foundation in Mexico.

In a press conference, Kemchs Dávila said that next March 21<sup>st</sup>, the World's Day of Down Syndrome, an exhibition of oil paintings created by boys, girls and teenagers that form part of the Foundation will be opened. This will take place at the Children's Hospital of Mexico, named "Federico Gómez", which forms part of the structure of the Mexican Ministry of Health.

Mr. Kemchs thanked the Mexican Ministry of Health for the printing of the 2014 calendar, which has the purpose of promoting the quality of the paintings created by these youngsters with special needs.

"The purpose is having these youngsters included into society and that they have a better self-conformation", said Mr. Kemchs. "These are young people with a lot of artistic restlessness and they are entering an area that they didn't know they could encounter", he added.

He added that on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Women's International Day, the lady painters with Down Syndrome will form part of the celebration with several exhibitions.

Regarding the effort made by the Down Art Foundation Mexico, Kemchs said that the activities that this group carries out began three years ago with young adults. Later, people from different ages were incorporated, even babies.



The first class in the Foundation was given on August 16, 2010. It was a summer course that began with 20 students. Nowadays, the class counts with 14 teachers and 70 students. They do art therapy, socio-sexual education, painting, music, theatre, Mexican art crafts, pottery, dancing, Zumba, physical education, early stimulation, among other activities.

Arturo Kemchs said that people with Down Syndrome have different abilities. When they show interest towards plastic arts, they are led into this discipline by Kemchs himself, since he is a cartoonist.

There are not enough spaces to promote these special people's art, Kemchs said. That is why he greatly thanked the Children's Hospital of Mexico for opening its doors for this purpose.

Boys, girls and teenager painters with Down Syndrome attended the press conference. Some of them were: Aisslinn Arredondo Equia, Linda Angélica, Ocegueda Miranda, Martín Palacios Albarrán, Jorge Alberto Albarrán Ramírez, León García Leonel, Agustín Andrade Domínguez, Nancy Jasmín Kemchs Fernández, Adriana Martínez Frausto, Evelina Rivera García, Diana Pérez Velázquez, Rubén Salas Altamirano, Sonia Angélica Gutiérrez, Reina María de la Luz Romero Barba and Guadalupe Hernández Soto. Their art appears displayed in the 2014 calendar of the Mexican Ministry of Health.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Down Art Foundation Mexico is an institution that fills a very important space within the Down community in Mexico. It is formed by people with wide experience in the field.
- The Children's Hospital of Mexico named "Federico Gómez" forms part of the structure of the Mexican Ministry of Health. The Hospital contributed actively for Albert Sabin to develop the oral vaccines against poliomyelitis. The Hospital also created the oral serum, which has prevented hundreds of kids from dying by dehydration.

If you want more information about the activities of the Down Art Foundation Mexico, go to [fundacionartedownmexico.blogspot.com/](http://fundacionartedownmexico.blogspot.com/)

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