Studio Institute provides children art supplies, lesson packets

By The Daily Memphian Staff

Studio Institute teaching artist Terry Lynn prepares to distribute art supplies and lesson plans to Memphis Delta Prep student families. (Courtesy of Amy Foote)
Two weekends ago, Studio Institute’s teaching artists assembled 500 art supply kits. On Thursday, April 30 they delivered 250 of them to Memphis Delta Prep for student families to pick up. The next day, Friday, May 1, they delivered the other half to KIPP Memphis Academy Elementary. The kits included drawing pencils, erasers, crayons, watercolor trays, paper, sketchbooks, a printed lesson packet with step-by-step instructions, and links to online lessons and videos. The packets included drawing, collage, self-portraits, painting, and activities for students to explore their neighborhood and create art in response.

Students are encouraged to email photos of their finished artwork to Studio Institute teachers for feedback, as well as compilation into a virtual exhibition.

Before the schools closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the artists visited kindergarten and first grade classrooms at those schools.

With kids at home, the organization was tasked with engaging the students who may have little or no access to technology or basic art supplies. Memphis program coordinator Amy Foote received an emergency grant from the Urban Child Institute to purchase supplies and to get art lesson plans and kits assembled and delivered.

Foote and teaching artists Tracy Treadwell, Terry Lynn and Carl Scott assembled the kits.

Studio Institute’s new online resource program, “Look, Create, Share” will be available at studioinstitute.org and include video art lessons led by Memphis artists, as well as artists from other cities.