

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Martha Rial/Post-Gazette photos

During a session at the Wood Street Galleries, Downtown, artist Tim Rollins challenges fourth-grader Sehj Kashyap to push himself while collaborating on a painting with him and his classmates from Liberty International Elementary School in Shadyside.

Kids of Survival's art addresses social issues

A couple of decades ago, a young artist from rural Maine wandered into the South Bronx and began an amazing project that has survived and flourished against sometimes overwhelming odds.

Tim Rollins and the students from low-income communities who he collaborates with use classical literature and mythology as take-off points for sophisticated artworks that address the contemporary social issues that affect them. A survey exhibition of their work, "Tim Rollins & K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), 1981-2000," is at the Wood Street Galleries, Downtown. Also in the exhibition is one collaborative piece created by 24 students from Pittsburgh's Liberty International Elementary School, who met with Rollins daily for a week in mid-March.

Rollins will give a free talk about K.O.S. at 5 p.m. tomorrow in Gregg Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. Enter Porter Hall (the long building nearest Hunt Library) and follow signs. For information, call 412-268-2409.

The exhibition at 601 Wood St., Downtown (above the "T" station), runs through May 13. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and until 7 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. For information: 412-471-5605.

— Mary Thomas
Post-Gazette Arts Writer



Liberty School fifth-graders Lily Wein, left, and Linda Liu discuss the watercolor flowers they painted, while classmate Lidija Barbaric works on a painting in the background at right.