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Dana DiTullio

Artistic Director Bronwyn Rucker ignites Meltdown, Inc.

studying acting and the theater. "It's

all about responsibility; its all about working within the group. This idea that art is frivolous or that its *only* for the elite or that its just this loose, creativity thing that's not realistic frustrates me. My mission in life is to fight these attitudes."

A long-time volunteer added, "Education should be a learning experience, you're supposed to be taught how to think. Reading, writing and math are all part of that, but to make decisions for yourself and to see that life is a wonderbox, that's never really taught."

Meltdown is looking for ways to raise funds so they can provide for larger groups. There are studio art sessions for small groups of children and adults for a reasonable contribution fee (*see insert box*).

Also a line of hand-painted note cards, "Avant Carde," are being produced by volunteers, which they hope to sell at street fairs and festivals here in Brooklyn. One nine year old boy had interpreted his father's favorite '60's songs, "that's 'Stairway To Heaven'," pointing proudly to his work.

There's a freeness in children's art that can not be copied when we become adults. They have no preconceived notions about how many fingers to paint on hand or whether or not clouds are green. Expressiveness like that should be released and nurtured for as long as one lives, because its self-empowerment.

To participate in upcoming events or to become involved with Meltdown, contact: **Meltdown, Inc.** 346 Flatbush Ave. (718) 857-MELT.

March 25: a focus group on racism at 11 a.m.

Friday Nights: adult drawing classes open to all levels and styles from 7-9 p.m. with a contribution charge per session.

Spring Break: an all-day arts program will be made available to pre-teen and teens from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. with a contribution charge per day.

YWCA 30 Third Ave. (718) 875-1190 (ext. 211)

Wednesday Evenings: Meltdown's Teen Leadership offers a drama group, entrepreneurial projects, parenting, relationship and conflict resolution rap sessions from 5-7 p.m. at the Teen Center.