

LONG TRAIL SCHOOL

founded 1975

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PROCESS LEARNING THROUGH ART AT LONG TRAIL SCHOOL

Students in Anharad Edson's art classes are creating papier mache animals and sculptures which were inspired by the October visit of Mexican artist Marco Abarca. Abarca shared his views about art and life with Sarah Rath, Johan Acuna-Jimenez and their students. Predominantly known for his sculpture in wood and other media, he shared his sketchbook and how he develops his ideas and drawings. The lessons from his visit were varied and wide-ranging.



Mexican artist Marco Abarca shared his inspirations with Long Trail students.

One of the most immediate lessons was the opportunity for students to communicate with yet another native Spanish speaker. The students found his art irresistible, due to its fanciful and magical qualities. Abarca also shared a video which illustrated his process of making a sculpture. Starting with many peaches, Abarca researched his subject's form, texture and other properties until he mastered the final product of his sculpture, a giant peach from which emerged a girl who turned into a butterfly. The video was produced in Spanish and dubbed in English, providing an additional layer of learning for the students.

The work in papier mache is an extension of the Abarca experience. Once completed, these art projects will be painted. Students are writing stories to accompany their pieces. The influence of this visit is multilayered and creative, from conversing in another language, to understanding an artist's inspiration, and finally to be inspired to create their own three-dimensional forms while writing their own creative stories. Long Trail students were enriched by many cross-curricular experiences.

Long Trail School combines rigorous academics and a personalized curriculum for grades 6-12. For more information, please contact Courtney Callo at 802.867.5717 x141.