



## TESSERACT STUDENTS INVITED TO WORK WITH WORLD RENOWNED ARTIST

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA –January 21, 2009– Tesseract School, a non-profit, independent private school—preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10th-grade class scheduled for fall 2009—announced today that its fourth-grade students have been invited by the Arizona State University (ASU) Art Museum to work with internationally renowned artist Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba.

Nguyen-Hatsushiba's new work is an ongoing project in which the artist plans to run a distance equal to the diameter of the earth over a two-month period as a memorial for refugees around the world. The mental and physical challenges he endures are meant to demonstrate the struggles refugees face every day and the will it takes to survive.

Tesseract's fourth-grade class will join Nguyen-Hatsushiba today at the ASU Art Museum to help create a portion of his museum exhibition. Nguyen-Hatsushiba is currently in Phoenix to create his museum installation and scout the best route for his run scheduled in April. In early summer, he plans a second installation at the ASU Art Museum inspired by this dramatic experience. This week, the students and the artist will build telescopes out of found objects that will be showcased with the summer exhibition as well as design their own smaller telescopes to keep for themselves. The found-object telescopes are an integral part of the installation scheduled for summer 2009.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for our students to work with an internationally renowned artist," said Barbara Perez, Tesseract's visual arts educator. "To be included in this community effort at ASU is such a gift and provides another hands-on learning opportunity for our students. It is very exciting to be able to participate in living-curriculum—this experience will be with the children for a lifetime."

Nguyen-Hatsushiba was raised in the U.S. and now resides in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He is known for his underwater films which have been shown in biennials and collected by art museums around the world.

Nguyen-Hatsushiba's exhibit is titled *Breathing is Free: 12756.3 – New Work by Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba* and will be showcased in the ASU Art Museum January 24 - April 26, 2009. It is co-curated by Senior Curator and Interim Director ASU Art Museum Heather Sealy Lineberry, and Alsdorf Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago Dr. Nora Taylor. The ASU Art Museum presentation is generously supported by the Evelyn Smith Exhibition Fund, Howard and Donna Stone, the ASU Art Museum Advisory Board, Diane Harrison and Sherman Axel, MD, and Friends of the ASU Art Museum. In-kind support provided by TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Tempe, LaBocca Urban Pizzeria and Wine Bar in downtown Tempe and PS Studios, Phoenix. For more information about the exhibit and the artist, visit [asuartmuseum.asu.edu](http://asuartmuseum.asu.edu) or call 480-965-2787.

### **About Tesseract:**

Tesseract School is a non-profit, independent private school for students in preschool through ninth grade, with its inaugural 10<sup>th</sup> grade class starting fall 2009. All grades, preschool through 12, will be available fall of 2011. Tesseract School has high academic standards, thematic learning and more than two decades of academic excellence.



Tesseract fosters each student's intellect, love of learning and strength of character in an innovative and collaborative environment. It prepares students to excel in college and beyond, lead lives of purpose, and become ethical and compassionate citizens with a global perspective. Tesseract's lower school is located at 4800 East Doubletree Ranch Road, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253. Tesseract's middle and high school is located at 3939 East Shea Boulevard, Phoenix, Arizona, 85028. For more information visit [www.tesseractschool.org](http://www.tesseractschool.org) or call 480-991-1770.

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