

Ani Art Academies is interested in reclaiming a building at Fort Hancock, restoring it and using it for a Fort Hancock Ani Art Academy. Our mission is to provide a comprehensive drawing and painting education, free of charge, inclusive of materials, to our veterans wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The founder of the Ani Art Academies, Tim Reynolds, learned how to draw and paint after being paralyzed during an automobile accident. Mr. Reynolds had no obvious aptitude for drawing but held a strong desire to learn. His passion for learning would lead him to explore a myriad of educational models until he discovered a unique system developed by renowned artist Anthony Waichulis. Once Mr. Reynolds understood the potential of Waichulis' curriculum, and saw the results his students were achieving, they teamed up to offer what is now the Ani Art Academies program to aspiring creatives worldwide. Messrs. Reynolds and Waichulis are confident that the women and men that have sacrificed so much for freedom can learn to navigate a vast visual language with great expertise even if they thought they had little natural aptitude.

Great artists are not born -- they are educated.

"These heroes survived intensive training and then selflessly fulfilled their obligations under great strain. I am confident that any of them can master the skills we strive to impart through determination, repetition, and stubborn commitment. These aren't skills wanting in any veteran I've been fortunate enough to know." - Anthony Waichulis

What are the Ani Art Academies?

Ani Art Academies is a global, non-profit organization that delivers a free, comprehensive, multi-year drawing and painting education to aspiring Artists around the world. Academies are usually located in exotic tourist destinations with the aim to empower local Artists to create, express, and communicate in new and exciting ways. We are enabling graduates to interact with tourists and residents in a more intellectually and financially rewarding capacity.

We are a collaborative project conceived by Tim Reynolds, and brought to life with the help of our passionate students and teachers. The curriculum for The Ani Art Academies was developed by renowned Master Artist Anthony J. Waichulis who has devoted his life to teaching drawing and painting skills. He has dedicated over sixteen years to carefully designing a world class program that promises to transform any dedicated student into a highly-skilled artist.

"Ani" is derived from a Swahili word meaning that we are "on a path or great journey." hardworking students are rewarded with a lifetime of creative freedom through logic and discipline. In the beginning our limits are constrained by skill -- in the end they are only bound by our limitless imagination.

We currently have schools in Pennsylvania, where future instructors are educated by Mr. Waichulis, Anguilla and the Dominican Republic. Schools are under construction in Sri Lanka and Thailand. Fort Hancock would be the home of the sixth academy.

All Academies are completely free for the students, inclusive of materials. It takes approximately three years of full-time apprenticeship to graduate and the results are stunning.

None of this is remarkable until you see the art work being created by students and graduates. Many people mistake these paintings and drawings for photographs, but they are so much more than that. In fact the process of displaying the artwork on the internet significantly degrades the images.

<http://aniartacademies.org/image-gallery>

Ani representatives have toured the guardhouse, building 28, and the YMCA, building 70. Either of these buildings could work well for an academy. Our preference at this time is the guardhouse. The Mule stable that is being used by maintenance and building #21 also seem like a possibility but we were unable to enter those facilities.

The money for renovating the buildings and running the academy will come from Ani Villas International and the Tim Reynolds Foundation. We will not be applying for government assistance. We have funds to complete this project, as well as the other academies, and run the academies for more than 15 years without further fundraising or the need to charge tuition.

To learn more about the Ani Art Academies go to

www.aniartacademies.org

or watch this short video showcasing some of the artwork

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beMH_NUzoCw