Worrell, Harriet. "Middle School Trip to Hall Art Foundation Is ‘Exciting Stuff’", Vermont Standard, 23 October 2014, pp. 4C, 7C.

Susan Piccoli — docent, guide, teacher — led the 16 inquisitive middle school artists from selection to selection with important and curious bits of information, activities, and experiments. They danced in the colored shadows, saw themselves in the kaleidoscope, watched some of their colored clothing look gray in certain lights, stood beneath the mobile, listened and watched the waterfall, saw their faces become double circles of mirror, and listened carefully to the story of how the artist scaled volcanoes and searched for a way to create white light.

A small group of kids stand under a motorized mobile with a fan at one end of a bar and a stage light at the other.

Katrina Jimerson Photo

This was exciting stuff. The artist calls it “devices for the experience of reality.” His work “prompts a greater sense of awareness about the ways we both interpret and co-produce the world.”

It also entices children to know more and to be fascinated with how art does that very thing. These are works of art that they rush toward with enthusiasm that sometimes seems high energy without containment. So be it.

The creative mind works that way. However they are received — in part or whole — these experiences with Eliasson will be remembered in the developing creative process of 16 middle school students who had the privilege to be in horse barn and cow shed with a remarkable artist, his work, and his philosophy.

In their next class meeting, the MS artists in 3D sculpture will remember more than they know they do. It will all fall out when they write their reaction to one chosen piece of art that they saw at the Hall Art Foundation. They will make at least one observation and include reaction to the piece. Finally, they will include a question that the piece they selected raises. There will be thinking and articulation and wonder.

They won’t remember much about the bus ride home. It will be like so many others. But the art and the artist? They will have soaked into their middle school beings. Hall Art provided.