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Cool Substitute Art Teacher: Mr. Koons

By *ROBIN POGREBIN*

New York City Title I public schools — which have the highest percentage of children from low-income families — have been known to hold art classes in broom closets and to scrounge for art supplies. But next week some of their students are going to get the artist Jeff Koons as their art teacher — at least for a day.

It's part of Visual Arts Appreciation Week, organized by Studio in a School, a nonprofit organization founded by the philanthropist Agnes Gund that brings arts education into the city's public schools.

Starting Monday, for the first time in Studio's 35-year history, the organization has invited high-profile artists into classrooms to highlight the importance of arts education. Instructors will include Fred Wilson, Ursula von Rydingsvard and Claudia Demonte. Schools that artists will visit include P.S. 112 and P.S. 46 in Harlem, P.S. 75 on the Upper West Side and P.S. 139 in Flatbush, Brooklyn.