



# Young Audiences Western New York

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## **YOUNG AUDIENCES HONORS LOCAL ARTISTS FOR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION**

**BUFFALO, NY (5/18/10)** – Young Audiences of Western New York is pleased to announce that they will honor Buffalo artists **Monica Angle** and **William Y. Cooper** at their 2010 Benefit Dinner & Auction titled *Help Us Keep It Moving!*. The benefit, which is open to the public, will be hosted on June 9 at 6 p.m. in the Mary Seaton Room of Kleinhans Music Hall.

Young Audiences WNY's annual dinner and auction celebrates the important work of engaging and educating young people through the arts. The 2010 program honors outstanding achievements in arts education, and features a dinner, silent auction, and performance by Annette-Daniels Taylor, lead teaching artist for Young Audiences WNY's new *Underground Railroad in WNY* residency.

Honorees are selected annually by the Young Audiences WNY benefit committee. Past recipients have included the Salvation Army of Buffalo, the Holley and Holland School Districts, artists Kyoko Roszmann, Cindy Hanna, Jerry Raven, and Sherry Robbins. The 2010 honorees, Angle and Cooper, were selected based on their significant contributions to arts, education, and to their communities.

**Monica Angle** is a painter, printmaker, bookmaker, and collage artist living in Buffalo. She earned a BA from Harvard College in 1984, majoring in Folklore and Mythology while also studying painting. In 1987 she completed her MS at Pennsylvania State University, and in 1994 she pursued advanced coursework in printmaking and bookmaking at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in Minneapolis, MN.

Angle has made a significant impact in the realm of arts and education in Western New York. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Burchfield Penney Art Center where she is a member of the Education Committee and Collection Committee. She is Co-Chair of the Neglia Ballet Artists, a member of the Nichols School Art Committee and an exhibiting artist member of the Buffalo Society of Artists. She is a teaching artist for Just Buffalo Literary Center, working with elementary students on bookmaking through the *Writing with Light* program. Additionally, she works with the Cornell University Industrial Labor Relations School on a mapping project focused on providing a physical snapshot of the location of artists in Western New York.

**William Y. Cooper** is a painter, printmaker, muralist, writer, and illustrator who lives in Buffalo, New York. He attended the University at Buffalo, earning his BFA in Fine Arts in 1975. In addition to practicing art in numerous mediums, he is also a New York State certified art teacher.

His work—which incorporates aspects of his American experience and African heritage—is conceptual and metaphorical. He has been exhibiting his work locally and internationally since 1969 and he has had fifteen solo exhibitions, showing his work in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and the National Art Gallery in Ghana, West Africa. His work has been included in over twenty-six group exhibitions.

He is engaged with his field through community service and professional memberships with the National Conference of Artists, the Alliance of African American Artists in America and the Afrocentric Artists' Collective, which he founded and directed from 1979-1981.

Proceeds from the *Help Us Keep It Moving!* Benefit Dinner & Auction support Young Audiences programming which brings arts programs to children throughout the eight counties of WNY. Tickets for this event are \$85 and \$125 and are currently on sale. More information is available at [www.yawny.org](http://www.yawny.org) or by calling 716.881.0917.

**ABOUT YOUNG AUDIENCES:** Founded in 1962, Young Audiences WNY programming is designed around the fact that an arts-rich education provides a child with the ability to look beyond facts and figures; to creatively meet new challenges as they arise. Plus, the arts make learning fun. Introducing curriculum-supportive, arts-based learning provides a varied and compelling environment—engage even the most reluctant learners and give day-dreamers a classroom as rich as their imagination.

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