



# UNCLASSIFIED: The Military Kid Art Show

## “Kids Serve, Too” Is Not Just a Slogan!

**UNCLASSIFIED:** The Military Kid Art Show is the first traveling museum exhibit of its kind, showcasing the life of a military child through art. It is an ethnographic field study of the military “brat” subculture, illustrating the strength, compassion, and creativity of these individuals, and the social and emotional challenges they face throughout their lives.

There are 2 million children in active duty families today and 15 million adult “brats” - an historic reference to British military children, based on the acronym, “British Regiment Attached Traveler.” They’re every age, race, religion, and socioeconomic class. They are the invisible Americans.

**UNCLASSIFIED** celebrates and honors the service and sacrifice of these individuals by sharing their art, their voices, and their stories. This eclectic collection of mixed media, painting, video, and photography covers a variety of topics, including deployment, mobility, living overseas, and the effect of PTSD on children, and is sure to engender a deeper understanding between military and civilian communities.

Winner of the Newman’s Own Award for innovative programs that improve the quality of life for military families, past and present, presented by Pres. Tom Indoe and Gen. Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The first contemporary art exhibition exploring the American Military B.R.A.T., an invisible subculture.



## Gallery 1: Military Kids Connect & Reflect

Military kids from the 1950s to the present express their feelings and experiences in 29 pieces of original art, from crayons to pastels to mixed media. Also featuring an authentic military footlocker of historical “brat” artifacts, a Military Kid Resource Flyer and a STEM lesson plan.



## Gallery 2: Military Kids Speak Out

Excerpts from two documentaries about growing up military by Writer-Director Donna Musil, an Army Brat and Third Culture Kid.

» **BRATS: OUR JOURNEY HOME**  
The award-winning film that helped build the Military Brat Movement, narrated by Kris Kristofferson, with the late Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, author Mary Wertsch, and brats of all ages and branches of service. On AFN, CNN and NPR.

» **OUR OWN PRIVATE BATTLEFIELD**  
A documentary work-in-progress about the effect of PTSD on military children, and how one family used art to help heal the wounds of war.

## Gallery 3: A Family Heals

When a soldier comes home from war with PTSD, it affects the entire family. It can even cause PTSD in spouses and children. This powerful segment of **UNCLASSIFIED** features 21 pieces of sculpture, photography, and mixed media artwork by father/daughter artists, Tom and Lora Beldon, that explores this experience (documented in the video, *Our Own Private Battlefield*). Tom was a career Marine who served two combat tours in Vietnam. Lora was three when he returned. After years of struggling, Tom and his wife divorced and Lora didn’t see her father again for over 15 years. They reunited at an art show and discovered they had both been making art to help heal the wounds of war. Lora made graphite drawings inside hand-made toothpick frames in her conceptual series *Everywhere and Nowhere*. Tom created a fantastical “world” of hanging sculptures and installation pieces deep in the forest. Their story shows it’s never too late to start over again.

### For more information, contact:

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