

## PS 8 Enrichment Program: Guggenheim Museum's Learning Through Art

**Guggenheim**MUSEUM Beginning in early October and going through May, Jenny Bevill of the Guggenheim Museum's Learning Through Art Program is working with 3rd and 4th grade students at PS 8 on art projects related to their social studies curriculum. The Guggenheim program has been at PS 8 since Fall 2004.



Third grade students will be using their knowledge of Native American culture and the Brooklyn landscape 400 years ago (pre-Dutch settlements) to envision a specific location in the past, present, and future (locations include: the Brooklyn Bridge, the Promenade, Lower Manhattan, and the NY Harbor and Islands). Students will work individually or in pairs to create a landscape/cityscape triptych that includes a photo-collage and two paintings. The photo-collage will represent the place in the present, the left painting will show the same location 400 years ago, and the right painting will represent the same location in the future.

Fourth grade students will first create a series of individual sculptures using a variety of materials that explore different themes, including land, nature, storytelling, and the way cultures interact with and influence each other.

As they are creating these sculptures, students will be discussing and debating each of these themes as part of their curriculum on the Native Americans and Colonists in order to learn how things in the past have influenced



our lives today. Then, students will work together to brainstorm, design, and build a class sculptural installation representing how elements from the past have transformed them into who they are today.



There will be an in-school exhibition in which all participating students will show their work. In Spring 2007 the entire third floor of PS 8 was transformed into an art gallery! and was the venue for an opening reception.

In addition, some student work will be selected to exhibit at the Guggenheim's annual "A Year with Children" exhibition which runs May - June every year and showcases excellent work from all participating schools. The work will be selected by Jenny and the classroom teachers. One student docent will be chosen from each grade; these students will be trained at the museum and will be present at the opening to discuss their grade's work.



### **About the Guggenheim Museum and its Learning Through Art Program**

Guggenheim Museum is a world-renowned museum of modern and contemporary art, located on the upper east side of Manhattan.

Learning Through Art (LTA), an artists-in-the-schools program of the Guggenheim Museum, encourages teachers and teaching artists to design art projects that support student learning across the curriculum. The program focuses on both looking at art and hands-on art making. Through art-based exploration, artists collaborate with teachers to develop and implement programs that deepen students' understanding of targeted curriculum areas.

Students engage in sustained, process-oriented experiences that cultivate creativity while reinforcing critical thinking and communication skills. Each program introduces art concepts, materials, and techniques, and cultivates visual literacy.

Recent research shows that this combination of activities helps students build important critical-thinking, art, and literacy skills. To learn more about LTA programs and research, visit their website: [www.learningthroughart.org](http://www.learningthroughart.org).