

## PS 8 Enrichment Program: Studio In A School

# Studio in a School

Studio In A School is an arts education

program that is partnered with the NYC Department of Education to bring professional artists to the schools. STUDIO's goal is to teach children how to express their experiences through visual art, while showing them how an artist works and thinks.

STUDIO's program at PS8 serves the Kindergarten and 1st Grades in a 14-week residency, during

**Studio in a School**

which each class works on two projects. Before beginning the projects with the children, the Studio artist meets with the teachers to develop projects complementing other aspects of the student's curriculum. The artist next does a workshop with the teachers, to expose them to the project and the methods that the students will be using. Finally, the artist spends five weeks on the first project, a 2-dimensional project, and five weeks on the second, 3-dimensional project.



The Studio's approach focuses on choices and decision-making. Students are given the opportunity to choose what they want to make, draw it first, and then choose, based on that, what they want to add to a group project. The program also stresses that there is no "right" or "wrong" in art; there are no mistakes. Any "mistake" can be seized as an opportunity and turned into art.

- **Kindergarten:** Their first (2-dimensional) project is an ocean collage, using watercolor and drawing. Their second (3-dimensional) project has to do with bugs, making paper and clay sculptures.

- **1st Graders:** Their first project is a paper and drawing collage of a “habitat,” to complement other aspects of the science curriculum. Each class works on a different habitat, including ocean, polar, urban habitat and rainforest. The different components



are then assembled into a large collage by each class. Their second project is Community. Photos of school staff were used by the students to launch their imaginations and make portraits using drawing, paint and clay.

After the projects are completed, there is an exhibition at which the students can show and



explain them. The exhibition includes a presentation by Studio in a School artists reviewing the process of the projects’ creation, and student discussion of their projects, the choices they made, and their artistic process.

### **About Studio in a School**

Studio in a School’s mission is to foster the creative and intellectual development of young people through quality visual arts programs directed by professional artists, and collaborate with and enhance the capacity of those who provide and support arts programming for youth. Their methods for accomplishing this involve collaborative planning with classroom

teachers as the foundation for successful programming; professional development for school staff so that they can understand the creative process; and designing lessons and activities that are age-appropriate and that focus on the process of creating. Projects are often linked to classroom curriculum, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate what they are learning by using a different form of expression. STUDIO students engage in ongoing reflection and discussion, and learn to work both individually and in groups. In addition, every STUDIO program culminates in a special on-site exhibition where children, parents/caregivers, and site staff are invited to special opening receptions celebrating the children's creative endeavors.



For more information, visit  
STUDIO's website at  
[www.studioinaschool.org](http://www.studioinaschool.org).