

## **Evelyn Harris**

*The art school at the educational alliance is an authentic monument, a tribute an honor and a remembrance of enormous artistic contributions made by Lower East Side artist to the culture of New York, to the United States and to Western culture in general. World renowned artists like Louise Nevelson, Chaim Gross, the Soyer brothers, Zero Mostel, Ben Shawn and other honed their crafts at the Educational Alliance. Many of these artists were of immigrant origins as are many of today's artists. Major artists are being developed today in the Educational Alliance. Some are of new immigrant groups such as Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian and many other parts of Eastern Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. Second and third generation immigrants produce their art at the Alliance. Many will go on to become the new artistic names in American culture, in photography, sculpture, painting, metal work, collage, portraiture and metal work and more. All of this can happen only if the art school is not reduced, diminished and/or eliminated. It cannot become a second or third or passing thought, something of minor importance. It must be a major consideration in any new plan for the Alliance. That means it must be designed to accommodate ARTISTS not relegated to a couple of rooms with small windows, little light, poor ventilation and little room for easels, lockers and other necessary accouterments. The photography studio requires a dark room; for the photographers, like craftspeople of old, keep alive an extraordinary American tradition, a form of Black and White photography that is now being given high priority by the Modern Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum.*