

September 14, 2011

Welcome!

We are pleased that you are interested in joining us in studying at the Educational Alliance Art School. Whether you are an experienced artist or just starting out in your artistic pursuits, once you take a class here, you will see many students return semester after semester, year after year. Whatever class you enroll in—painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, welding, drawing, collage—you won't be disappointed. You will find wonderful, caring teachers, a sense of camaraderie amongst the students, and an energy and spirit that is unique in New York City.

Therefore, we are all saddened that this special place is soon to be closed for a minimum of two years. When it reopens, this over 100 year old art school that fueled the creativity of artists like Ben Shahn, Chaim Gross, and Louise Nevelson will be a different place. Gone will be the light filled painting and drawing and sculpture studios. Instead they, along with the ceramics studio, will be on the ground floor, with much lower ceilings, smaller windows, and a fraction of the natural light that makes creating art here such a joy. Also gone permanently will be the black & white photography darkroom and the welding studios, two of the very last such places in NYC and two of the very studios that have made the Educational Alliance Art School such a special place for so many years.

We tell you all of this not to discourage you from registering for fall classes. Quite the contrary! We urge you to follow your instincts and enroll for a class (or two!) for the fall semester. Registration continues right up to the day of the first class so there is still time for you to tell friends and families about this great resource and encourage them to study here too.

AND as a member of the Educational Alliance art school community we urge you to join in our efforts to make sure the art school continues in the same spirit and way in which it has for over 100 years. We, the Organizing Committee to Save the Art School (oc2sas), are working to persuade the Alliance's Board of Directors to amend the "renovation plans" so that everything that generations of students and teachers have loved for over a hundred years can continue for future generations. You can sign the petition here tonight (you can see the text of the petition on the back of this page) or sign it and obtain more information on our website at www.oc2sas.wordpress.com.

Thank you for your support. And again, our congratulations and welcome on choosing this very special place to inspire your artistic muse.

Sincerely,

The Organizing Committee to Save the Art School