

Lois Lord, 1908 – 2008

Lois Lord came to Bank Street in 1952 to teach courses in the Graduate School on early childhood and elementary art, and taught here for more than fifty years. She died on June 3, 2008, in her 100th year. Lois was a renowned artist, photographer, teacher, and writer with an international reputation in the field of art education. In her long life and career, she embodied the quintessential Bank Streeter—being both a lifelong learner and a lifelong teacher.

Lois taught educators how to integrate art into the curriculum to enable children to grow and express their deepest feelings and ideas. Art, she observed, offered children a way to connect who they were (their inner selves) with the outside world; she felt strongly that every child deserved access to this means of communication.



Lois demonstrating painting to an attentive group of schoolchildren.

taught art at the New Lincoln School in NYC (her work was documented in the 1961 film, *Collage, Exploring Texture*). She taught children's classes at the Museum of Modern Art; supervised its Children's Creative Center at the 1958 Brussels World Fair; and made a filmstrip, *Children Work with Clay*, based on

her 1976 work in Tuskegee. She traveled extensively in her work as an educator and photographer. With a New World Foundation grant, she created a written and photographic study of art education in Japan, which was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art and circulated in the U.S. and Canada.

In her 80s and 90s, Lois taught two mornings a week in the School for Children because she wanted to continue to learn even more about how children develop through their art experiences. She always said her work with children was essential in bringing immediacy and freshness to teaching adults.

In her 100th year, she continued to advise and teach as a mentor and a guest lecturer at Bank Street, Teachers College, and Parsons School of Design until just a few weeks before her death.

Over the years, Lois's ideas about how art can be taught to children profoundly influenced many leading educators. Her 1958 book, *Collage and Construction in School*, is a classic in the field. Her work truly embodied the developmental interaction approach to teaching and learning as practiced by educators at Bank Street and other leading progressive institutions and schools. In 1995, the College awarded her an honorary doctorate in recognition of her many achievements, and in 2004, mounted an exhibit of her photographs. After her death, The Soho Photo Gallery in New York, where she exhibited, put on an exhibition of her work as a memorial. A moving memorial tribute in her honor was held at Bank Street on April 22, 2009. She is, and will be, greatly missed.

Lois is survived by two Canadian nephews, Thomas and John Lord, their wives, and six great nieces and nephews.

Joan Cenedella