

# Benefits of Art education

by Elliot Eisner

*Elliott Eisner, a Professor of Education at Stanford University has identified 10 lessons which are clarified through the study of Art.*

## Ten Lessons the Arts Teach

- 1. Decision Making:** The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships. Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.
- 2. Problem Solving:** The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.
- 3. Coherent Thinking:** The arts celebrate multiple perspectives. One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
- 4. Exploration:** Learning in the arts requires the ability and willingness to surrender to the surprising possibilities of the work as it unfolds.
- 5. Enhancing the learning experience and Imagination:** Art makes a fact so vivid that words can't, in their literal or numeric forms. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.
- 6. Importance of efforts:** The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects. The arts traffic in subtleties.
- 7. Imagination & Creativity:** The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means through which images become real.
- 8. Language of Heart:** The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said. When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.
- 9. New Experiences and feelings:** The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.
- 10. Symbolisation:** When a child learns art he learns to communicate in symbolic terms.