

CALIFORNIA ARTISTS
Projects for Kids

Judith Baca

Judith F. Baca (b.1946) is a visual artist, an arts activist, a community leader & a professor of visual art. She lives & works in Los Angeles designing artworks that tell the history of its diverse peoples in murals, community projects & monuments. A unique artist & mentor, she creates her own artwork as well as designs collaborative projects that draw out the talents & hidden stories of others.



Judith F. Baca, "Great Wall of Los Angeles" began 1976, panel: 10" x 30"
Detail: Baby Boom ©SPARC www.sparcmurals.org

World Wall

Judith Baca is concerned about the world & how people will work together to preserve its future. The "World Wall," a portable large-scale mural, addresses themes such as war, peace, cooperation & interdependence. The artwork will tour the world & be enlarged as other artists make new panels. Help design your own panel about preserving the earth.

- ◆ Plan a collaborative mural about protecting nature.
- ◆ Paint a background with sky, hills, bay water & fields.
- ◆ Draw & color animals, birds, reptiles & insects. Cut out & attach to the mural.

Great Wall of Los Angeles

Judith Baca planned, designed & organized a half-mile long mural depicting the history & struggles of ethnic peoples in California. Hundreds of artists, neighborhood youth, scholars & staff worked together over five summers to paint each decade's stories. As a leader, Judith Baca helped participants work through interracial differences to tell their different stories on the mural. She co-founded an organization called SPARC to help others create their own community mural projects. Learn more about SPARC's projects & the Great Wall: www.sparcmurals.org.

- ◆ Picture a part of California history such as the building of the Spanish missions.
- ◆ Research the peoples involved & consider how their memories of the event would differ.
- ◆ Illustrate the event from one person's viewpoint.
- ◆ Compare your drawing with others. Combine ideas for a large group mural.



Student artwork, grade 2



Judith F. Baca, "Great Wall of Los Angeles" began 1976
Detail: 1820 Frontier ©SPARC www.sparcmurals.org

Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Judith Baca's murals show history from different perspectives. Read a world news story & retell it from a different viewpoint.
- ◆ Many community murals show the history or struggles of the people in the neighborhood. Read for stories that could be made into a mural.

Heritage Portrait

When Judith Baca planned her first community murals about a neighborhood, there were few books, pictures or histories available. She relied on oral history, including conversations with immigrants about their early memories of life in a new country. Many of her murals are the first visual history of early California showing the struggles of the multi-cultural people who settled here. Learn of her efforts: www.pbs.org/americanfamily/mural.html.



Student artwork by Cecilia V, grade 5

- ◆ Talk to friends or family members who have moved to California from another country.
- ◆ Learn about their everyday challenges & successes in a new life. What parts of their culture have they brought here?
- ◆ Design a heritage portrait. Include cultural symbols & story scenes to tell about their lives. Write the story.
- ◆ Share your portrait & its story with another friend to keep California's heritage alive.

Many thanks to: Judith Baca; SPARC (The Social and Public Art Resource Center)



COMMUNITY SCHOOL
OF MUSIC AND ARTS
FINN CENTER



230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View, CA
650.917.6800 | www.arts4all.org

Written by Mary Bender; Designed by Ina Johnson, ©2008