

Shelby Wolf's latest monograph published by Future Creative

Professor Shelby Wolf's new monograph highlights how children grow in their visual arts learning. *Hand in Hand: The Art of Amalgamation* explores the experiences of the children, teachers and administrators of the Hythe Community Infant School and St. Leonard's Church of England Junior School as they combined into one unified institution.

As Wolf notes, "Throughout England, the amalgamation of infant and junior schools is becoming increasingly common. While the benefits of amalgamation seem clear and compelling, there is little or no guidance or information about the multiple burdens inherent in the process."

Wolf's monograph studies the experiences of the two schools, each with very different attitudes to learning, as they embarked upon a project of amalgamation supported by Future Creative in Kent, England. As the researcher, Wolf focuses on how engagement in "serious visual art classes" as well as a variety of unifying artistic experiences encourage particular ways of thinking or habits of mind in the children involved.

The photos below highlight the artistic theme of hands—a metaphor for the two schools joining together or "hand in hand"—and show the children at work and the products of their artistic endeavors.







