

The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

Classroom Connections: Classroom Dinner Party

Grade Levels: Elementary, Middle and High School



Stephanie Spencer



Dayna McNichol

Art teachers Stephanie Spencer and Dayna McNichol from Pallasades School District in PA, created a very special environment for their students to experience *The Dinner Party*. They recreated *The Dinner Party* by arranging tables in a triangle. Reproductions of 18 place settings were placed along the three sides of the table. They emphasized the idea of “table” as a gathering place. Recalling their own experience of *The Dinner Party* as it is installed at the Brooklyn Museum, they darkened the room and added twinkle lights to recreate the hushed and reflective environment. In setting the stage for their students to experience the work in this changed environment, these teachers emphasized the importance of the installation of the artwork and created an atmosphere of respect that continued throughout their students’ investigation of the artwork. In addition, as the students entered this altered space, they became a “part” of the work.

