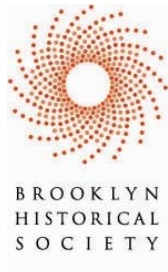


**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
April 21, 2008

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**Made in Gowanus – stained glass, folding bikes,
special effects, marble fixtures and more...**

Gowanus – Transformations

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MANUFACTURING

A new *Public Perspectives* exhibit at the Brooklyn Historical Society

Brooklyn, NY – From the third generation family business D. Maldari and Sons, the only pasta extrusion die company in the western hemisphere that makes the ‘ABC’s for *Campbell’s Alphabet Soup*, to J & M, the company that creates special effects for *Late Night with David Letterman*, the exhibit *Gowanus - Transformations* shows the face of contemporary manufacturing along the canal.

Opening on May 8, ***Gowanus – Transformations: Celebrating 150 Years of Manufacturing*** looks at both the continuity and evolution of manufacturing businesses along the canal and focuses on a group of diverse businesses that demonstrate the broad scope of ingenuity and creativity that thrives in the 21st century Gowanus region. Visitors will view examples of finished products along with tools for making them, as well as photographs and video showing the creation process and facilities. Featured products and companies include: Claireware pottery, Ernest Porcelli stained glass, Design Mobility folding bicycles, Beagle Tile cabinet makers, Foro Marble company, Kabirs Bakery, and Flirt clothing design. Curators Christine Mackellar and Margaret Maugenest, along with Enid Braun as photographer, have extensively interviewed business owners and worked in cooperation with Friends and Residents of the Greater Gowanus (FROGG), the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp., and the South Brooklyn Local Development Corp. to bring to light how Gowanus manufacturing businesses utilize both traditional and contemporary skills to contribute essential local goods and services to our daily lives in the city.

About the exhibition series: *Public Perspectives* provides a creative forum for Brooklynites to have an active voice at the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) by presenting community-curated exhibits in response to an annual open call for exhibition proposals from Brooklyn-based individuals, school and community groups, and non-profit organizations. Three recipient groups are selected per season by a panel of cultural and community representatives. The awardees collaborate with BHS staff to develop and mount their exhibitions. *Public Perspectives* is made possible by a generous grant from the Lily Auchincloss Foundation with additional support from the Independence Community Foundation.

Gowanus – Transformations: Celebrating 150 Years of Manufacturing

Exhibit Dates: May 9 – August 24, 2008 **Hours:** Wednesday – Sunday, 12 – 5 p.m.

Location: Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (at Clinton Street).

Admission: \$6 Adults, \$4 students/seniors over 62, free for children under 12

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 8, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Free to the public.**

Walking Tour: Saturday, June 21, 2 – 4pm. Guided walking tour of workplaces featured in the exhibit, including Claireware pottery, Ernest Porcelli stained glass, and J & M special effects studios. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the working practices of contemporary manufacturing happening right in our own backyard. Meet promptly at 2 p.m. at Claireware, 543 Union St at the corner of Nevins. Rain or shine. **Free to the public.**

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Brooklyn Historical Society
128 Pierrepont St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-222-4111
www.brooklynhistory.org