

mentor's introduction

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Before becoming a doctoral student in art education at Louisiana State University, Harriet Walker was an elementary teacher in the Orleans Parish Public Schools. She has seen the changes that have taken place in the schools in New Orleans since 1967 and has experienced both the frustrations and the rewards of working in inner-city schools as a classroom teacher, a Title I reading resource teacher, and a teacher of gifted and talented. Her research has grown out of her concern for the education of African American children and those issues she confronted on a daily basis. An issue of great concern to her has been that what teachers are required to teach, the content of curriculum, has often seemed distant from the real lives and interests of students. Majoring in art education has allowed her to explore these issues through the lenses of curriculum and instruction, multicultural education, art history, anthropology, feminism, and African and African American studies. She became especially interested in the ideas of feminists who approached the study of art from a different perspective, and these feminist ways of thinking about art provided the inspiration for this study of African American art.