

# **mentor's introduction**

**Sally McRorie**

Florida State University

I am pleased to introduce the research of Ms. Rachel Williams. She is a doctoral student in Art Education at Florida State University where she also completed an MFA in Studio. Ms. Williams is a practicing artist, has been a successful university and high school art teacher, organized and administered a summer arts program for gifted secondary students, and implemented an extensive arts program for women inmates at a correctional institution near Tallahassee. Her current research is an outgrowth of the latter experience, and involves interviews with 31 women inmates and case studies of three additional women inmates at a correctional institution in Wisconsin. Given the continuing push for art education among all facets of our populations, and the recognition of the power of art in lifelong learning experiences, this research will make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the ontology and epistemology of art within the walls of correctional institutions and the lives of women incarcerated there.

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