

Mentor's Introduction: Yi-Chien Chen

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Yi-Chien Chen comes to Florida State University with a bachelors degree in philosophy from National Taiwan University and a masters degree in art education and a minor in museum education from the University of Kansas. Her interest in museum education is long-held and deep for one so young. Beyond her various courses of studies she has been actively engaged in museum education for a number of years, most recently as the curator of several special exhibitions at the Kaohsiung History Museum in Taiwan. Also, as evidence of her engagement in the field, she recently served as project manager for the Florida State Art Museum outreach program called "Every Child." She has already given a number of national and international presentations on museum education in venues ranging from the Florida Art Education Association conferences and National Art education Association conferences, to universities and museums in both the United States and Taiwan.

In her study, Yi-Chien is looking at the descriptions of selected professional museum positions---what they people in their positions in art museums and how--- from AVISO advertisements for open positions and other literature , survey results, and interviews, and comparing that to programs of study and course content from selected higher education institutions with art museum education programs. The point is to see if what is offered in museum education meets the perceived needs of museum professionals already on the job. Yi-Chien will do this well, in my estimation. Her analytic skills are finally honed. Her ability to separate the significant from the insignificant is excellent. And her sensitivity at following "the scent" of important issues in her research is superior. I think in the future Yichien has the potential to be someone who counts in the field based on her sensitivity and skills in academic research, and I suspect the results, conclusions and implications of this study will be of considerable significance for the field of museum education in North America. In that context, I'm proud to mentor her in this, her first major research study.