

Mentor,s Introduction

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Judith Briggs is an exhibited artist, an award winning teacher, a keen observer of visual culture with an enthusiasm and curiosity for learning which makes her the ideal graduate student. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of Judith's graduate studies—her enthusiasm and energy are contagious.

Judith's curiosity about life and visual culture has led her to study in other parts of the world. As well as the U.S., she has studied in the U.K., and her doctoral research has taken her to Australia to examine a statewide art education system in New South Wales. To take off into an unknown down under, culture and be able to do painstaking and scrupulous case study research in completely unfamiliar territory with great enthusiasm indicates Judith's caliber as an educational researcher.

Her particular philosophy of education includes her commitment to feminist pedagogy, her insightful understanding of postmodern art and educational theory and a desire to broaden the horizons of American art education beyond DBAE. This has led Judith to see contemporary art education situated in a wider field of visual cultural theory, one that includes cultural and social dialogue, critique, collaboration and a willingness to embrace change.

The case study research examines an approach to curriculum design in the visual arts which includes conceptual frameworks as ways of investigating and exploring art works and works of visual and popular culture. These frameworks allow teachers and students to see how forms and practices of art and visual culture, their content and context are connected and indeed construct the intertext of students, and artists, work. Judith's research will be of particular interest to art educators on all levels.

Judith's teaching and research are reciprocally linked and she is passionately concerned with reforming art education classroom practice. Her research, which reflects her own personal imprint and commitment, is a significant contribution to our evolving field of art education, and I am delighted to be associated with it.