

# *Mentor's Introduction*

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James Kelley McNutt brings to this research topic a scholarly pursuit of factual detail from primary sources as well as the mature perspective of an experienced artist/teacher. His educational background includes a B.F.A. in painting from the University of Alabama and an M.A. with a major in painting from that same institution. He is currently writing his dissertation and anticipates completing his Ph.D. in Art Education from Florida State University during 1988.

As an artist, he has exhibited paintings, drawings, ceramics and fibers throughout the Southwest and South America. He has previously received a grant from the Alabama Council on Arts and Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts for the development of his artistic efforts.

While completing his doctoral studies he has been on leave from the University of Alabama where he is an assistant professor of art education. His teaching experience includes both graduate and undergraduate courses in methodology, curriculum, and teaching/learning for preschool, elementary, secondary and the exceptional students.

James McNutt has integral links to public school art programs. He is a former teacher of elementary and secondary students and an art consultant to schools in Alabama and Florida. This professional association with public schools is reflected in his research area. The existing need to expand methodologies in the teaching of art history and aesthetic valuing influenced McNutt's initial inquiries which lead his research topic.

As he documented how art history and aesthetics were first introduced into public school curricula, the researcher found a body of information which has not been comprehensively investigated. The historical study promises to be a significant contribution to the field of art education. "Art in General Education, 1870-1900: The Introduction of Three-Dimensional Art Reproductions into the Public Schools of the United States" is a study which expands our views of art education's use of art reproductions in teaching history, criticism and aesthetic valuing.