

mentor's introduction

TOM ANDERSON

The Florida State University

Mike Sikes has an amazing combination of abilities and a depth of sensibility which I have rarely seen in graduate school, or anywhere. He has an outstanding ability to analyze, interpret, and synthesize seemingly disparate information, picking unlikely threads that when he weaves them together, make perfectly sensible and often beautifully intricate tapestries. In the same paper--no, even the same thought--he might combine references to interactive video, medieval concepts of beauty, the nature of metaphor and arts administrators' responsibilities to their constituencies.

His background is as unlikely a synthesis as his thinking; one of which may explain the other, but which explains which is anyone's guess. He has been to colleges everywhere. The list is as long as my arm, with majors including photography, English literature, and art education. He has worked as an associate at the Institute for Instructional Research at the University of South Florida developing and piloting subject area tests. He has been an arts administration associate at the Florida State University and The Director of the Cultural Resources Commission in Tallahassee. He won an extremely competitive University scholarship, leaving philosophy and physics majors in the dust. But if you ask him about himself, he's likely to tell you about when he was a waiter. So, for the record, Michael Sikes is a doctoral student in the art education program at the Florida State University and a Research Associate for the Institute for the Arts, Art Department, Arizona State University.

The following paper speaks for itself in relation to the quality of Mike's thinking and writing. In it he kernalizes his ongoing concern with the idea of the art museum as cultural metaphor. This concept lies at the heart of his dissertation. Personally, I can't wait to read his next chapter.