

mentor's introduction

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To claim the role of mentor in the case of Gudrun Helgadóttir is, I fear, something of a false pretense on my part, for I seem to learn as much from her as she does from me. I have known Gudrun since she came to this university in the 1980's as a Master's student. I do take some of the credit for persuading her to stay on to do doctoral work.

Gudrun has brought together her interests in Icelandic education, in crafts (not a word that has had much vogue in North American art education lately), in history and historiography and in feminism, to create a dissertation that is as illuminating as it is informative. But her impact at UBC has by no means been confined to the quality of her writing. She has been a leader and an inspiration to her fellow graduate students. For her, the mentoring role has already begun; at the official outset of her career at the post-doctoral level, she can already look back on several years of being an example to emulate. She is an international art educator, in personal experience and in academic perspective.