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Marilyn Zurmuehlen Working Papers in Art Education
ISSN: 2326-7070 (Print)
ISSN: 2326-7062 (Online)

Volume 13 | Issue 1 (1995) pps. 69-69

Mentor's Introduction

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Recommended Citation
Kantner, Larry A. "Mentor's Introduction." *Marilyn Zurmuehlin Working Papers in Art Education* 13 (1995): 69-69.

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mentor's introduction

LARRY A. KANTNER

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Susan Dodson earned her B.A. in art, speech and theatre from Morehead State University and her M.A. in English from Indiana University and Manchester College. She is currently an Associate Professor of Art at Mc Pherson College, Kansas and pursuing her doctoral degree in art education at the University of Missouri.

Her background, not only in art, but also in psychology, American studies, English, aviation, interpersonal communications, theatre and critical thinking and writing has provided her an interdisciplinary approach to life and the creative phenomena.

Undergirded by the beliefs that life is interconnected and art is inclusive of all life, Susan takes a synthesizing approach to her teaching. She encourages creativity and the creative spirit, and invites students to be authentic, to find meaning in the creative process, and to experience the pulse of life--- their own creativity.

It is not then surprising that she is deeply involved in her own creative endeavors which include watercolor, acrylic, pastel, fibers and jewelry. These media help give voice to her interest in the nature of creativity and the creative process. Susan grew up active in ballet, the theatre, and the visual arts. As a teacher, her experience with her college students she became interested and concerned with thinking and behavioral patterns that might effect creativity in many young adults. Her belief that creativity is a desirable and natural quality of what it means to be human serves as the grounding for her *realization*. She began to explore relationships between the nature of creativity and educational situations where creativity is affected daily. This interest has evolved into her present ethnographic research investigation on transformation through the multi-dimensional creative process.