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Mentor's Introduction

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mentor's introduction

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June Julian exemplifies the ideal of the artist-teacher, which has been the model for our art education program since its beginnings with Samuel F. B. Morse. Her environmental paintings have been exhibited in Spain, Greece, Italy and the U.S., while her long-time ecological concerns have led to the creation of what may well be the first high school course in environmental art in this country. While continuing as art instructor at the Gill St. Bernard's School in Gladstone, N.J., June is currently telecommunicating with other art teachers and students around the world via the Internet. As artist-researcher she is heavily involved in cross-cultural aesthetic inquiry in **Navigating Global Cultures**, a collaborative project of the Commission for Experimental Aesthetics, School of Education. Her own project on the World Wide Web, "A World Community of Old Trees," has attracted participants from places as diverse as Texas, Lithuania, Belarus, Ohio, Canada, and Nevada. June tells me that "Trees are coming in from all over the world!" For example, the High School for Environmental Studies in Manhattan is contributing art work of the oldest trees in Central park. (You can join in by visiting the Project Web site.) The address is

hhtp://www.nyu.edu/projects/julian/toc.html

The worldwide exchange of artistic images and expressions of concern for the environment continues to expand at a rapid rate, posing a methodological problem for June. But I fully anticipate that her completed study will offer the field an approach to art education for the 21st Century that is at once open, democratic and multicultural. The working title of her dissertation-in-progress is "Art Education On-Line: Toward a Theory of Ecology-Based Art Education." For many of us, what is at stake is nothing less that the viability of the world in which we live.