Title: The Disappeared: Exploring the Erasures of Our History
Date: Thursday, March 2; 12:00-12:50pm; Hilton Regent 2nd Floor
Presenters: Jodi Kushins and Amy Brook Snider

Presentation Summary:

Someone once said that the definition of a leader is “a person who rules, guides, or inspires others.” History is sometimes an account of those who led by the strength of their persona and/or physical presence. Where do some of the major past thinkers in our field reside in our professional history? Does their work live on only in out-of-date textbooks and journal archives? Whom are we referring to in our recent journals, presentations, and syllabi and whom have we left out? What can current and future leaders in art education learn from those who came before?

In this session, we look at the work of art educators whom we—the presenters and our session attendees—remember as transformational leaders in their own time but who have largely disappeared from recent scholarship and conversations in the field. How can we bring them back into our conversations, literally and theoretically? Together, we will hypothesize about the possible reasons for their absence from the current research literature. Participants will contribute to the discussion inspired by examples of the art educators who influenced them; how they first learned about these individuals; and the original source of that connection.