

Re(Search)/Re(Design) Environments in the Elementary Art Room



- University of North Texas pre-service art students as researchers in the field.

- Presenter: Joana Hyatt

Thursday, March 1st – @ Sheraton conference room B LL 9:30-9:55

“I never thought of this area as a space to create art!”

“The furniture is built into the floor. The children barely have room to move much less create art.”

“My art budget is very limited. I feel like I have to keep every scrap of paper.”

“You want to photograph my art closet?!”

The University of North Texas pre-service art education students were challenged with visually redesigning cooperating art teacher's classrooms. Students acted as researchers using field notes, e-journals, and photographs to imagine alternative solutions and redesign the environments in their assigned elementary schools. Through their investigations students learned about the problems that can plague individual art programs and became knowledgeable about the real-life constraints and the hidden curriculum that are a part of elementary art programs, realizing the restrictions and difficulties of putting theory into practice. In a collaborative action

based project, the cooperating art teachers shared their expertise and knowledge with the pre-service students in order to learn from one another and build a stronger local arts community.