



NATIONAL  
ART EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATION

## NAEA OFF-SITE WORKSHOP

Friday, March 3, 2017, 12:30-2:30 PM

Linda Stein's studio-gallery in Tribeca at 100 Reade Street, New York, NY 10013

Facilitators: Linda Stein, Karen Keifer-Boyd, Ann Holt

### H2F2 Civic Art Education: Taking the Challenge of Change

**CAN ART CHANGE THE BRAIN?** Artist-activist, Linda Stein, the 2016 National Association of Women Artists Honoree for Commitment to Arts and Culture says: "My goal as an artist is to use my art to transform social consciousness and promote activism for gender justice. With my androgynous wearable sculpture, I invite the viewer to seek diversity in unpredictable ways, to 'try on' new personal avatars and self definitions, knowing that every new experience changes the brain's structure and inspires each of us toward a more authentic self." Stein is a dynamic, inspirational speaker; and enthusiastically welcomes art teachers to her Tribeca studio gallery for a workshop on empowerment in making selfies wearing Stein's *Fluidity of Gender* sculpture, and participating in a Find Card activity. *Find Cards* is a differential learning and assessment strategy that Keifer-Boyd developed for teaching mixed age groups from five-year-olds to elders in a gallery setting, adapted for engaging with art exhibitions online as well. Teams prepare *Find Cards* through dialogue about Linda Stein's art in her studio-gallery, and experience three phases of *Find Cards* for implementing in their teaching.



From the Cabinets, Cupboards, Cases and Closets Series, Brought/Left Behind #856 by Linda Stein (2015). Wood, metal, fabric, and mixed media. Open 47"x30"x16"



*Anne Frank #839* by Linda Stein (2015). Fabric, archival pigment on canvas, leather, metal, zippers, 5 ft. sq. Curricular encounters with tapestry is at <http://h2f2encounters.cyberhouse.emitto.net/justice/>

## Workshop Description

### H2F2 Civic Art Education: Taking the Challenge of Change

The workshop begins with Linda Stein discussing her art and the reason for her abrupt change from abstract art to vertical (human forms) protector sculpture. Linda Stein—an artist-activist, lecturer, performer, video artist—currently has two traveling exhibitions and events in progress. One is her solo catalogued exhibition, *The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein* (FoG), traveling the country since 2010, accompanied by her feminist lecture: “The Chance to be Brave, The Courage to Dare.” The second traveling event is [\*Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Females —Tapestries and Sculpture by Linda Stein\*](#) (H2F2). She is represented by [Flomenhaft Gallery](#) in Chelsea, Manhattan and her archives are at [Smith College](#). Several works from both series will be exhibited at the Stein Studio Gallery on March 3, 2016, for the workshop.

Stein is Founding President of the non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, [Have Art: Will Travel! For Gender Justice](#). Her current art addresses core issues of empowerment, by focusing on the continuum between masculinity and femininity, oppression and bullying. This gender-bending work began a year after running for a full day from the falling Twin Towers in the Ground Zero area. This year the National Association of Women Artists (NAWA) has awarded Stein as the 2016 Artist Honoree for Commitment to Arts and Culture. “My goal as an artist,” Stein says, “is to use my art to transform social consciousness and promote activism for gender justice. With my androgynous forms I invite the viewer to seek diversity in unpredictable ways, to ‘try on’ new personal avatars and self definitions, knowing that every new experience changes the brain’s structure and inspires each of us toward a more authentic self.” She is a dynamic, inspirational speaker and has enthusiastically welcomed art teachers to her Tribeca studio gallery.



During the next 45 minutes, teams will have the opportunity to take photos wearing Stein’s *Fluidity of Gender* sculpture and also participate in the three phases of a Find Card activity. *Find Cards* is a differential learning and assessment strategy that Keifer-Boyd (2014, 2013) developed in the 1970s for teaching mixed age groups from five-year-olds to elders in a museum setting. Teams prepare Find Cards through dialogue about the *Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Females — Tapestries and Sculpture by Linda Stein* series. A Find Card begins with a directive or clue of something to find in an exhibition and includes a question.

Linda Stein (left) with Gloria Steinem wearing Stein’s *Fluidity of Gender* sculpture (2015).

For example:

- Find an artwork that conveys ideas important to you. What are the ideas and how are they communicated?
- Find an artwork that is about a civic action. What are the challenges of the civic action conveyed in the work?
- Find an artwork about power and vulnerability. How does the work convey these ideas and with what impact?

When participants create Find Cards, facilitators discern what learners find important. Also, in composing a question, reflection on what is learned integrates assessment with learning.



Spoon to Shell #817 by Linda Stein (2015).  
Spoon, shell, and mixed media. 11"x2"x14"

Teams place their card in the center of the group and select another team's card and search the exhibition for a work to discuss based on the find prompt and question posed on the card.

During the last 45 minutes of the workshop, each team takes the full group to the work they selected and present their response. The authors of the card comment on which work they had in mind in writing the card and why the question they wrote is important. The artist of the work in the exhibition, Linda Stein, will add her response to the questions posed at each team's selected work.

The session concludes with discussion of what was learned and application in participants' teaching context.

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Keifer-Boyd, K., & Kraft, M. L. (2014). [IDEA<—>Empowerment through difference <—>Find Card strategies](#). In S. Malley (Ed.), *2013 VSA Intersections: Arts and Special Education Exemplary Programs and Approaches* (pp. 147-158). Washington, DC: The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Kraft, M., & Keifer-Boyd, K. (2013). *Including Difference: A communitarian approach to art education in the Least Restrictive Environment*. Reston, VA: The National Art Education Association.

Stein, L. (Ed.), 2016. *Holocaust Heroes: Fierce Females—Tapestries and Sculpture by Linda Stein*. Philadelphia, PA: Old City Publishing.