



Dr. Marion F. Jefferson

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The MARY J. ROUSE AWARD is given in recognition of a young or early professional, who has demonstrated outstanding performance in scholarship, leadership, and teaching.

Conferred by the NAEA WOMEN'S CAUCUS on March 26, 1980
at The Ohio Conference
Ohio State University

The Award was presented by Dr. Marylou Kuhn, Professor of Art Education, The Florida State University who nominated her for this Award.

Recipient: Marion F. Jefferson

ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS:

It is a very great honor to be the recipient of the Mary J. Rouse Award for 1980. The contributions that Mary made to the field of Art Education through her writing and research have long been and continue to be an inspirational force in my career. Her comparative research between children's cognitive development and the stages of artistic expression is required reading for all my students. This Award has great meaning for me also because I knew Mary and greatly admired her directness and insight in dealing with the issues and concerns of our field -- especially at the research seminars held at our National Conventions.

Your President, Rogena Degge, has asked me to briefly tell you about some of my past accomplishments and to describe my current involvements and beliefs as they relate to future professional endeavors. Being asked to speak about oneself is difficult, I've had to slow down, reflect on past achievements, and, in a sense, change gears. My life evolves around teaching, working with students, and service to my professional associations. I continually look forward to the next "big project on the board."

I majored in Art Education at a small private college in New Jersey -- Monmouth College. My professors there were impressed, they urged me to continue my education at the graduate level and provided me with moral support and a good foundation in art and art education. I was enthusiastic and eager to accept the challenge. Selecting a graduate school was a major transition in my life. I had to make choices and decisions that at the time and subsequently involved many sacrifices.

I met Ivan Johnson on a visit to Florida, he interviewed me and before I left Tallahassee he said, "I want you to join our graduate students, they are a very select group." I knew that I wanted to become a professional art educator, I wanted to study under the guidance and leadership of the faculty at Florida State University. I left my home in New Jersey with two small children and all my belongings packed in a \$300 used Volkswagen bus. I headed for Florida to start my career!

After three years in the graduate program at Florida State I was awarded a Ph.D. in the summer of 1971. As a student I was introduced to many important figures in the field; I attended the National Conventions, and I received my training from one of the most dedicated faculties in the United States. My belief in the importance of art in the basic school curriculum grew; my commitment to excellent in teaching was an established goal.

My first University position was at the University of South Florida in Tampa. This was followed by a request to coordinate the Art Education Program at the University

of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. I have been in charge of the Art Education Program at the University of Miami for eight years. It has been an intense and rewarding experience; it has given me the opportunity to work with many people; undergraduate and graduate students, the art teachers of Dade County School System (the 4th largest in the nation), professional artists, and museum educators, educational programs in the Caribbean Islands, and the art education leadership in Florida and throughout the United States.

The professional activities which evidence my greatest involvement are as follows:

- (1.) Serving as the regional Vice-President of the Southeast for the National Art Education Association, 1978-1980.
- (2.) Serving as Secretary (1976-78), President-Elect (1978-80), and now President (1980-82) of the Florida Art Education Association. I have been the program chairperson for the annual state conference for three consecutive years.
- (3.) Serving as editor of the D'Art magazine, the Journal of the Dade County Art Education Association for seven years
- (4.) Serving as Project Director of the annual University of Miami Art Workshop program for talented Dade County high school students -- a twelve week Program in which scholarship recipients study in all areas of art. The project has been funded by the Fine Arts Council of Florida, the Dade County Schools, the Metropolitan Dade County Council of Arts and Sciences, and the University of Miami.
- (5.) Teaching and research will always be major priorities. I advise both art and art education majors, supervise the student teachers in art education, develop outreach curriculum for teachers in the Bahamas, and conduct both in-service and professional workshops at school sites and at conferences.

Time is not endless, it is therefore important that priorities be set. The students, teachers, and colleagues that have shared my beliefs and venture forth in the field of education must be able to continue on where individuals like Mary Rouse; and Laura Chapman, June McFee, Rogena Degge, Marylou Kuhn, Sandra Packard, Julia Schwartz, and many others have brought a new consciousness and focus to the field of Art Education.

Please accept my most heartfelt and humble thanks for this most memorable moment in my life. It means more to me than words can express. With my thanks I leave you these words" Sisters, continue on ... the best is yet to be!

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