

## WOMEN'S CAUCUS (WC) <http://naeawc.net>

**Karen Keifer-Boyd**, Women's Caucus President. Ph.D., Professor of Art Education & Women's Studies at The Pennsylvania State University, School of Visual Arts, 210 Arts Cottage, University Park, PA 16802-2905. E-mail: [kk-b@psu.edu](mailto:kk-b@psu.edu)

**H**ope, equity, emancipation, and empowerment are primary reasons for conducting feminist research. Gender equity is intertwined with social, economic, and environmental justice. Empowerment emerges from a sense of self-worth, and opportunities to be heard and to choose. There are many ways to begin feminist research. A participant, who had attended the Women's Caucus Board meeting at NAEA 2011 Convention in Seattle, described the impact of one of the strategies.

*"You may not know this yet but you saved me this year. ... The visualization you led brought me back home. You helped me remember what is important to me in my work in such a profound way. Thank you for that."*

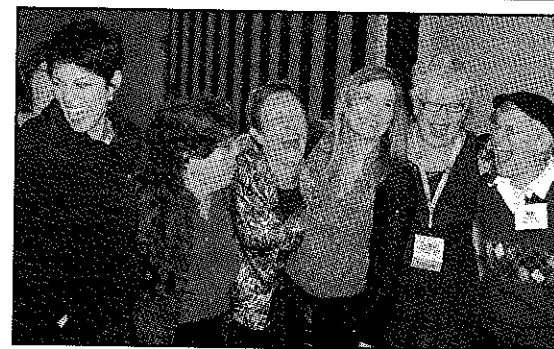
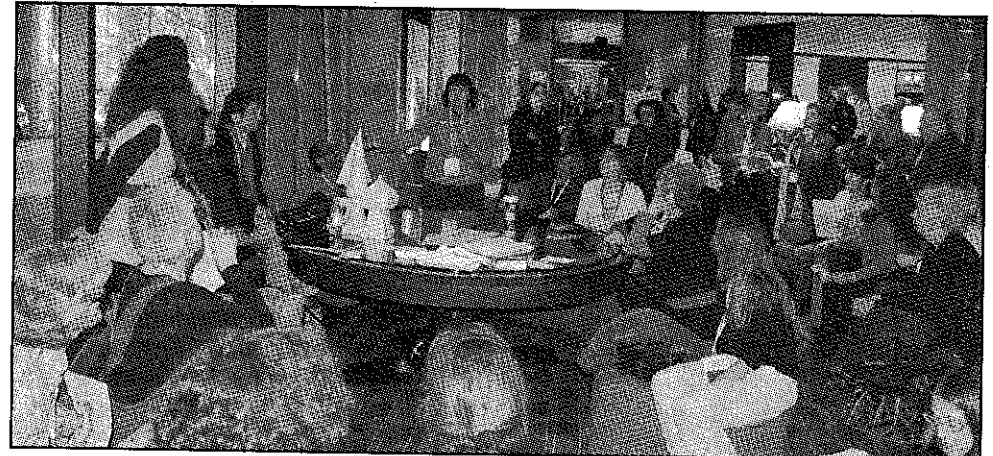
Feminist methods examine intersections of gender, race, and socio-economic class that constitute lived experiences and are manifested in undue privilege and oppressive living conditions. Feminist researchers seek perspectives from the experiences of those whose lives are marginalized, devalued, and/or misunderstood in social institutions such as schools. Women's Caucus members provide and continue to develop resources for research, which are accessible on our website at <http://naeawc.net/research.html>.

**Ask a Mentor:** The Women's Caucus is delighted to announce that we are launching a new Mentor Program. The program is designed to provide a forum for members to easily access each other and to gain the mentoring we so often need. Whether you are a K-12 teacher wanting to chat about advocacy strategies, or in Higher Education looking for feedback on a manuscript, we hope the mentoring program will grow to offer something for everyone. Please keep in mind that we are all positioned along different points in the continuum of our professional develop-

ment. Even those of us who feel like we are at the beginning of our teaching careers can mentor those just entering the field. We hope you will consider sharing your expertise with other Women's Caucus members. For more information, please visit our new web page dedicated to mentoring at <http://naeawc.net/mentor.html>.

**Honor Others:** Take a moment to think about someone who is an outstanding art educator who consistently inspires and mentors students in a cooperative, collegial, collaborative, and nurturing manner. Or, who has provided noteworthy service contributions to art education as an advocate of equity for women and all people who encounter injustice. This individual contributes outstanding service of community, state, national, or international significance that contributes to eliminating discriminatory gender and other stereotyping practices for individuals and groups. Who comes to mind when you think of someone who has made distinguished contributions to the profession of art education? Do you know someone who has made a special effort to incorporate feminist pedagogy into her or his pre-K-12 teaching? If you know someone that you would like to see honored, please send nominations by October 1, 2011 to the chairs of the five different award committees listed at <http://naeawc.net/awards.html>.

**Create Art:** Nourish yourself this summer with creative activity as a visual form of inquiry through artmaking. Send 1-3 images of your artwork for juried selection for exhibition at NAEA in New York City in March 2011. The deadline is earlier this year, November 1, 2011. See <http://naeawc.net/exhibitions.html> for past years' exhibition catalogues and further information on submitting work to the Women's Caucus annual exhibition. ■



The Women's Caucus awards event is filled with joy in celebrating and supporting each other. Left to right: Flavia Bastos, Enid Zimmerman, Melanie Davenport, Jennifer O'Connor, Deborah Smith-Shank, Kim Cosier. Photo by Joanna Rees.

The Women's Caucus 2011 Lobby Session took place, as has been the Convention tradition since 2008, in the Sheraton Seattle lobby. Using prompts that began "a time when," the 50 participants worked in small groups to translate personal experiences into possible pedagogical or political actions. Groups summarized their discussions emphasizing empowerment is in having relationships and being able to talk to others, learning from each other's life stories, acting on what you believe, and making decisions. Transcript available at <http://naeawc.net/activism.html>. Photo by Joanna Rees.



**Embodied Sculpted Analysis.** Based on Augusto Boal's *Image Theatre* techniques, *spect-actors* at a 2011 NAEA Women's Caucus session performed and directed each other to form body poses from their interpretation of constellations of survey data in response to the question "What is the image of a feminist in the field of art education today?" A premise of *Image Theatre* techniques for embodied sculpted analysis is that individual transformation incites and mobilizes action toward societal change. Photo by Joanna Rees.