

ABIGAIL HOUSEN

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EDUCATION

- Ed.D. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
Doctoral Program in Human Development, June 1983. Concentration in Aesthetic Development. Qualifying Paper: "A Review of Studies in Aesthetic Education," 1979. Thesis: "The Eye of the Beholder: Measuring Aesthetic Development."
- C.A.S. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
Certificate of Advanced Study Program, June 1978. Concentration in research and development of visual learning. Special projects: museum education study on modes of visual understanding; eye-movement research for museums and television on visual learning patterns; study of art museum programming for adolescents.
- Ed.M. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA.
Master's Degree in Education, January 1976. Concentration in the relation of cognitive to visual development. Special projects: cable television program on perception; art museum study on modes of visual understanding; eye-movement research on children's television.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, School of Architecture, Cambridge, MA.
Special Student, 1971-1973. Concentration in visual perception.
- B.A. Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA.
Bachelor of Arts Degree, June 1966. Concentration in Art History with minor in French Language and Literature.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1995-present Founder and Co-Director. Visual Understanding in Education, NY, NY. A non-profit educational research organization. (Known as Development Through Art 1994-97).
- 1987-present Consultant and Evaluator. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Boston Public School 5th Grade Program; gallery guides and self-guided tour materials; school curriculum projects; public programs; website.
- 1994-1998 Consultant, Trainer and Evaluator. Open Society Institute Eastern European and Central Asian Visual Thinking Strategies Program.
- 1993-1998 Project Director. Methods for Museum Education. 5-year longitudinal study of elementary students in Byron, MN.
- 1983-1996 Founder and Director. Visual Understanding in Education. Cambridge, MA. A non-profit educational research organization.
- 1988-1994 Consultant and Evaluator. Museum of Modern Art, NY, NY. Public programs; Art Education for the Blind; longitudinal study of elementary and high school programs; in-service programs; curriculum development; training workshops; Museum Education Institutes.
- 1978-1994 Assistant Professor, 1978; Associate Professor, 1986; Professor, 1991. Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA.
- 1987-92 Consultant and Evaluator. Institute for Education in the Arts, Bard College, NY. Longitudinal study of elementary school/museum program.

- 1981-1989 Director. Graduate Program in Art Education. Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA. Coordination of programs of individualized study for professionals in art and art related fields.
- 1981-1990 Project Director. Technical Assistance Grant, Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. "Institute of Contemporary Art Audience Study: Evaluation and Development of Gallery-Oriented Programs." Boston, MA.
- 1975-1978 Researcher. Children's Television Workshop in conjunction with the Laboratory of Human Development, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA. Formative eye-movement research on children's television viewing patterns. Development and formation of a methodology for analyzing eye-movement data.

ARTICLES, REPORTS, MONOGRAPHS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2007 "Art Viewing and Aesthetic Development: Designing for the Viewer." In From Periphery to Center: Art Museum Education in the 21st Century, Pat Villeneuve, ed. The National Art Education Association, Reston, VA.
- 2007 "Highlights of Findings: San Antonio Aesthetic Development and Creative and Critical Thinking Skills Study." With Karin DeSantis. Available at www.vue.org
- 2005 Annotated Bibliography. Journal of Business Strategy, September.
- 2002 "Very nice to my visual imagination memory": An inquiry into the aesthetic thinking of the visually impaired. With Karin DeSantis. In Art Beyond Sight: A Resource Guide to Art, Creativity, and Visual Impairment. Art Education for the Blind: NY, NY.
- 2002 Visual Thinking Strategies Curriculum. A multi-year curriculum (grades K-8) using art objects to teach critical and creative thinking in schools. Contains lesson plans, slides, image lists, and selected guides. With Philip Yenawine.
- 2002 "Aesthetic thought, critical thinking, and transfer." Arts and Learning Research Journal, 18, No. 1.
- 2001 "Voices of viewers: iterative research, theory, and practice." Arts and Learning Research Journal, 17 (1).
- 2000 "Eye of the Beholder: Research, Theory and Practice." Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1998 "Responding to Alper: Re-presenting the MoMA Studies on Visual Literacy and Aesthetic Development." Visual Arts Research, 24(1). With Linda Duke.
- 1992 "Validating a Measure of Aesthetic Development for Museums and Schools." ILVS Review, 2 (2).
- 1991 "Visual Thinking Curriculum I and II." Prepared for the Museum of Modern Art, New York. With Amelia Arenas and Philip Yenawine. Unpublished but used for research purposes.
- 1987 "Three Methods for Understanding Museum Audiences." Museum Studies Journal, Spring-Summer.
- 1983 "The Eye of the Beholder: Measuring Aesthetic Development." Ed.D. Dissertation. Harvard University.
- 1983 "Aesthetic Development Scoring Manual" in "The Eye of the Beholder: Measuring Aesthetic Development." Ed.D. Dissertation. Harvard University.

1980 "What is Beyond or Before, the Lecture Tour? A Study of Aesthetic Modes of Understanding." Art Education.

LECTURES, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

- November 2007 "In the Eye of the Beholder: The Barnes Foundation and the Art of Education - A Roundtable Discussion." Panelist.
- July 2007 "Aesthetic Thought and Critical Thinking." Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum "Thinking Through Art Symposium."
- March 2007 "Helping At-risk Elementary Students through Art Discussions." National Art Education Association Annual Conference, NY, NY. With Karin DeSantis.
- May 2006 "Aesthetic Thought and Literacy." The Wolfsonian-FIU Educational Symposium: The Literacy Question: New Theories and Practices in Arts-Integrated Learning. Miami, FL.
- March 2006 "Writing about Art and the Art of Writing." National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. With Karin DeSantis.
- May 2005 Guest Lecturer. Indianapolis Museum of Art.
- October 2004 "Thinking through Art." Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.
- March 2004 "Aesthetic Development: Nurturing Learning; Learning about Growth." Harvard Graduate School of Education, John Landrum Bryant Lecture Series.
- December 2002 "New Research in Aesthetic Thought, Critical Thinking and Transfer." The Minneapolis Institute for Arts and the Minneapolis Public Schools Colloquy. Minneapolis, MN.
- November 2002 "Summary Findings of the Aesthetic Development and Critical and Creative Thinking Skills Study, 1999-2002." Holt Foundations, San Antonio, TX.
- April 2001 "Methods for Assessing Transfer from an Art-viewing Program." Panelist. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- April 2000 "Voices of Viewers: Iterative Research, Theory and Practice." Panelist. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- March 2000 "Aesthetic Thought: Assessment, Growth, and Transfer." National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- September 1999 "The Eye of the Beholder: Iterative Research, Theory and Practice." Conference on Aesthetics and Art Education, Inquiry into Aesthetic Development Project, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.
- April 1999 "Visual Thinking Strategies: Understanding and Meeting Audience Needs." Panelist. American Association of Museums Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH.
- March 1999 "Interim Findings from the Cross-Cultural Implementation of the Visual Thinking Strategies." With Karin DeSantis. National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC
- March 1999 "Using a Theory: Implications for Learning and Teaching." Panelist. Museum Education Division Pre-Conference, National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Washington DC.
- April 1998 "Finding the Right Question." National Art Education Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

- February 1996 Guest Lecturer. Seminar on Visual Thinking. University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Urbana, IL.
- November 1994 “Aesthetic Development: A School-Museum Experience in St. Petersburg, Russia”;
“Aesthetic Development: A Model for Measuring Aesthetic Growth.” Colorado Art Education Association Conference, Boulder, CO.
- May 1993 Whitney Museum National Committee Forum on Museum Audiences. Co-panelist with Arthur Danto. Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, NY.
- May 1992 "Museum Education and Aesthetic Development." Museum Education Symposium: What Works and Why? Edith Blum Art Institute, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.
- January 1990 “What Constitutes Development in Children’s and Adults’ Responses to Art?”
Concordia University Colloquium Series, Montreal, Canada.
- October 1986 “Designed For Learning: Exhibitions for the Left Brain/Right Brain.” Panelist. New England Museum Association Conference, Bretton Woods, NH.
- June 1986 “Museum Learning: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice.” Panelist.
American Association of Museums Conference. NY, NY.
- October 1984 “Designing Interaction: Interactive Video and Museums.” International Council of Museums, American Association of Museums Conference, NY, NY.
- September 1982 “A Model of the Development of Aesthetic Understanding.” National Symposium on Research. University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Overseer of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; National Art Education Association;
American Association of Museums; American Educational Research Association