

Enid Zimmerman

Enid Zimmerman spent her childhood in the stimulating environment of Brooklyn, New York, where her artistic interests were first awakened. After earning a B.A. from the City College of New York and an M.A. from Hunter College (with fine arts majors and education minors), she began her career by establishing a visual arts program for local schools in Ithaca, N.Y. that is still active.

She brought her East Coast energy when she entered the School of Education's doctoral program in art education at Indiana University. As a doctoral student, she developed close ties with Dr. Mary Rouse, who was an active champion of women's equity issues. This model encouraged Dr. Zimmerman in her support of women educators and their aspirations to leadership. She met (and eventually married) Dr. Gilbert Clark at this time and began a lasting personal relationship and professional partnership that continue to the present. Her outstanding academic achievements and noteworthy abilities as instructor earned Dr. Zimmerman an assistant professorship in 1979.

Throughout her career Dr. Zimmerman has dedicated herself to teaching, conducting research (alone and in collaboration with other academics), writing, and mentoring students engaged in scholarly research. Her success can be partially measured by the fact that many of her former students have gone on to earn professional distinctions. Dr. Zimmerman's excellence as a teacher has earned her many awards, including several IU Trustees Teaching Awards, the School of Education Gorman Award, and the National Art Education Association Teacher of the Year award. She has had a profound effect on a generation of art teachers and doctoral graduates. In 2004, in appreciation of this influence, the members of the Art Education Association of Indiana inaugurated an Indiana Fellows Award to honor and perpetuate the work of Dr. Zimmerman and Dr. Clark.

During her early years as a faculty member Dr. Zimmerman's partnership with Dr. Clark led to the establishment of the IU Summer Arts Institute for gifted and talented junior high school students. The institutes led to research that improved techniques for identifying gifted and talented students in art, including recognition of giftedness across cultural and socioeconomic contexts. In *ProjectArts*, funded by a Jacob Javits grant, Dr. Zimmerman and Dr. Clark studied gifted and talented youth from diverse cultural backgrounds in three widely different rural settings in three states, culminating in design and development – by teachers and community members – of community-based art programs for these youth.

Publication of the groundbreaking *Educating Artistically Talented Students* was only one of more than 20 texts on various scholarly topics that were authored or co-authored by Dr. Zimmerman. Years of thorough research resulted in an updating of that pivotal work with the publication of *Teaching Talented Art Students* by Teachers College Press (2004).

Dr. Zimmerman's commitment to women artists and educators has touched women locally and globally. At the local level she was a founder of the Graduate Women Educators Network (GWEN) in the School of Education. Nationally and internationally she has edited a series of five anthologies by or about women art educators, conducted research on, and written about models of female leadership. She has been an invited speaker at workshops, symposiums, and conferences in the United States and in many other nations, and has received awards from the Women's Caucus of the National Art Education Association, the United States Society for Education in the Arts, and the International Society for Education Through Art (InSEA).

In addition to Dr. Zimmerman's inquiries into issues of gender, giftedness, and multiculturalism in art education, she has explored a wide range of research agendas in her career. Recent and current topics include art education practices in middle schools, the nature of collecting as an artistic endeavor, creativity, teaching strategies related to looking at and talking about art, and research practices and historical studies in art education. She is one of the two most-cited authors in the *Handbook of Research and Policy in Art Education*, published in 2004. She has served as co-editor of the international journal *InSEA NEWS*, completed two terms as a world counselor to InSEA, is a distinguished fellow of the National Art Education Association, and has served on review and advisory boards of many scholarly journals.

Dr. Zimmerman's reputation as a rigorous scholar and exacting mentor has attracted graduate students from all over the United States and a number of other countries. Encounters with international students have resulted in reciprocal global encounters, whereby Dr. Zimmerman and Dr. Clark have served as teachers and consultants to scholars in more than 20 countries around the world. Not the least of Dr. Zimmerman's achievements are the loyalty and support she has provided as a colleague to fellow faculty members.

While her retirement may change the geography of art education at Indiana University, it is unlikely that the change will slow the pace of Dr. Zimmerman's achievements. She has recently begun a new study

in collaboration with the present art education faculty, which explores gender, class, and peer culture as influences in preservice teacher education. She was recently appointed editor of the *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education*. In fall 2005 her teaching will move to the international arena as she begins an appointment as invited professor in Taipei, Taiwan. Other national and international teaching assignments are scheduled well into the future.

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