



Maker Library

Elkins, James. *Why Art Cannot Be Taught: A Handbook for Art Students*. University of Illinois Press, 2001.

“One danger of not knowing the history of art instruction [...] is that what happens in art classes begins to appear as timeless and natural. History allows us to begin to see the kinds of choices we have made for ourselves, and the particular biases and possibilities of our kinds of instruction.’

My belief that there was a problem and my determination to fix it propelled my MA research on craft education, but soon I had followed tangents to such a degree that I lost sight of how I wanted my work to be used as a tool for fixing. This statement by Elkins clarified to me that the most significant tool for fixing is information: knowledge of one’s own history and evolution in order to view policies and traditions with healthy criticality. Fixing to me means taking the initiative to affect positive change—I used history.”

Kara Bargmann
Featured Librarian
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