

**Art Schools Take the Lead:  
Creating Model Venues for Transdisciplinary Collaboration**

2008 Mid-America College Art Association Biennial Conference  
Herron School of Art & Design, Indianapolis, Indiana

Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Session Chair:**

Hope Ginsburg

**Panelists:**

Ian Berry, Curator, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College

Larissa Harris, Curator, The Queens Museum of Art

J. Morgan Puett, Artist and Co-founder of Mildred's Lane Historical Society

Artists, scientists, and scholars have long championed the Enlightenment ideal of a fluency of knowledge across disciplines. Our complex social, political, and environmental problems require constellations of thinkers to advance solutions. However we live in an age of increasingly specialized teaching and learning. Venues must be created to foster experimental collaborations across disciplines. This panel proposes that art schools and university art programs take the lead in envisioning and building such experimental spaces. The unique context of art pedagogy creates conditions for creativity and risk-taking free from the constraints of traditional scientific and academic method. Furthermore, the art school is well positioned to observe models of producing, funding and presenting unorthodox projects within the academy. Presentations by those who have realized such transdisciplinary "non-institutions" and those who have envisioned new models for collaborative venues are invited. Questions to be considered are: How can we articulate the need for such a space within our schools and universities? How can we protect the experimental nature of such a space? How can students interface with visiting scholars, artists, and researchers? How can such a transdisciplinary venue drive change within the art school or university as a whole?

*~Hope Ginsburg, April 2008*