

## Use of Judy Chicago Archive at Penn State

This summer, our visiting researcher Rebecca Goldschmidt spent a week exploring the Judy Chicago Archive to apply feminist pedagogical approaches to her own work with refugee, incarcerated, and otherwise marginalized youth of color. Goldschmidt is a photography workshop instructor, a gallery educator for school and youth group tours at the Museum of Photographic Arts in San Diego, and the founder and coordinator of Las Fotos Project, the first Mexico photography mentorship program, which connects Latina girls with female photographers and artist mentors.

Goldschmidt received her B.A. in German Studies from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. After working as a freelance photographer in the Bay Area, she moved to Mexico to study Spanish independently in Oaxaca and in Mexico City. She is a proponent of lifelong learning and has continued her education at various community colleges as well as through workshops and relationships with other artists and mentors. She is currently working on a self-directed Master's program with a cohort based in Los Angeles and throughout the United States.

At the heart of her practice is an emphasis on the creativity of the individual, and she intentionally works within alternative community spaces (such as cafés and collectives) and on collaborative and educational projects to maximize interaction, activate the audience, and increase possibilities of sharing and learning. Trained in languages and photography, her goal is to motivate and engage in the collaborative deconstruction and creation of images, where everyone is learning and the teacher-student dynamic is eliminated in a non-hierarchical classroom setting.

At the conclusion of her research, Goldschmidt shared these reflective thoughts regarding the archive and Judy Chicago's immediate influence on her own work at a presentation.

"Learning from Judy Chicago...

Methodology – emphasis on group bonding, human relationships, 'ideal to real', product not process, content research!

Encourage, inspire, guide & provide mentorship w/directness aka no handholding!

Discipline & professionalism as an artist – instilled in mentees

Choose a path and stick to it!

Personal identity/experience – content (Judaism, Chicago, etc.)"

Each day, Goldschmidt shared her growing interest in the archive, and we all encouraged her to stay in touch with us as her creative and academic work progresses.

Prepared by Athena Jackson, Huck Chair and Head, Special Collections, Penn State University