

## "Feminist Education at the Feminist Studio Workshop, The Woman's Building in Los Angeles" by Ruth Iskin, 1976

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The F.S.W. is first and foremost structured around the group interaction, (explained below). Women in the F.S.W. do of course learn skills for which specific structures of smaller groups are provided. Women's work in the F.S.W. so far has encompassed such diverse fields as: painting, drawing, sculpture, environmental work, performance, art history, photography, film, video, graphic design, printing, writing, dance, music and organizing. The participation of students who are interested in a particular area determines the diversity of disciplines at the F.S.W. -- not the availability of a teacher in a certain field, and the program is adapted to meet students' needs. 9

Throughout the year we have three ongoing permanent structures: The entire F.S.W. group (staff and students), community meetings, and small CR groups (the last two are conducted without staff participation; the staff has its own ongoing structure of meetings alternating with CR whenever necessary). The other structures — the critique, the project oriented group, skill classes, and a large group project — either occur at different times of the year, or change format from term to term.

In addition to the various structures, the year itself is divided into segments, each of which has its own emphasis. At the beginning of the year we focus on a large scale group project ending with a presentation to the public; during the second term we concentrate on acquiring skills in small group classes, followed by a month long period of individual work, during which students meet with staff memembers of their choice once a week; during the last term we emphasize bringing the work (both individual and collective) to completion and preparing for a group presentation to the public.

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