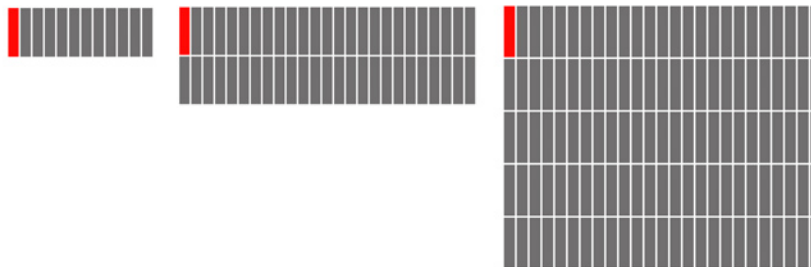


STUDIO DAVIS BIRKS

March 2018



## **The Errata Project**

A Community Collaboration

**The Errata Project**, building on the conscious omission of women artists in the early editions of H.W. Janson's *History of Art*, takes the form of a continuously growing library archive dedicated to female artists and establishes a related social platform. The project is realized through participating institutions as they collaborate with the public. It creates an instrument for community involvement to maintain sustained dialogues about women in art and society with the ultimate goal of sensitizing people at local levels towards gender equality and positive changes.

### **Introduction**

As we move toward the third decade of this century, social attitudes and laws promoting male privilege endure. The art world is no exception. This raises questions about mechanisms that have perpetuated inequality.

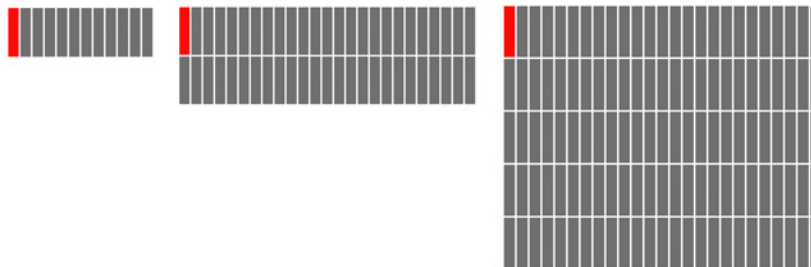
One striking example is an art history textbook, first published in 1962 and endorsed by many universities, which sold millions of copies in 15 languages and set the standard for art history survey texts. A renowned, yet prejudicial textbook, the early editions of H.W. Janson's *History of Art* excluded women from its pages for more than 20 years.

### **Description**

**The Errata Project** uses an early edition of H.W. Janson's *History of Art* as the foundation of an ever-continuing erratum with annexed volumes dedicated to those omitted historical female artists as well as today's female artists. The erratum, a literal expansion on the concept, grows exponentially as women's contributions are added to additional volumes, dwarfing Janson's. The original textbook functions as an historical reference, a negative starting point from which the public takes positive steps to rectify and learn from past errors as they create the erratum.

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The erratum is housed in a participating institution's library. The juxtaposition of the original book with a growing and much larger erratum will create an installation of visual and philosophical contrasts constituting a physical, community reference tool under the name the *Errata Project Archive*. This archive will be available to the public for the study of women artists and their contributions. As an analogue reference tool, the *Errata Project Archive* will be immune to internet and electrical failure.

Collecting data on female artists for the *Errata Project Archive* is achieved through the participation of local institutions and the general public. Credit will be given to the authors of the included research. Involving local communities with the actual production of its content will stimulate a larger discussion of women's equality. As an evolving activity, **The Errata Project** will develop over time to create bonds within a broad cross-section of local communities.

Through the participation of curators, historians, docents, students and the general public, research materials are compiled and vetted periodically by a curatorial team to add historical, contemporaneous, and newly discovered women's artistic contributions to the archive. As the *Errata Project Archive* grows, the participating public will search out women artists yet to be added.

Programmed public discussions form an essential part of **The Errata Project**. These talks, related to the lives of women artists and women's rights, will build a community lexicon on the values women bring to art and society.

With each passing year, the growing *Errata Project Archive* and continuing public discussions aligned with **The Errata Project** will raise awareness in participating communities about the importance of gender equality to facilitate a foundation for positive action.