



Director, Myers School of Art

Janice Troutman

Thirty years ago, I left the advertising world and began teaching graphic design in the School of Art at The University of Akron. I quickly learned of the study abroad trips led by art faculty. Students taking the trips for credit had a choice of doing research on a building, painting, sculpture, or print that they were going to see. The art history faculty led trips to Greece, Turkey, England, Scotland, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, and Italy.

Professor Earl Ertman, who was the school director, an art historian, and Egyptologist, led some of those trips including several to Egypt. His art history courses were

legendary. He had a reputation of having encyclopedic knowledge. Students said the lectures were compelling, memorable, and were brought to life with personal and amusing stories.

In 1990, as a new faculty member I tagged along on a trip to Egypt. It turned out to be an amazing experience, and what was unexpected was a glimpse of faculty being fully immersed into their research. Fast forward to 2006, Emeritus Professor Ertman's team digging in Egypt uncovered a significant tomb KV63, which Ertman co-directed with the late Otto Schaden. It had been the first tomb discovered in the Valley of the Kings since Tutankhamun's tomb found in 1922.

My experiences on the trip was the first of many that allowed me to call Professor Ertman a teacher and mentor. Since then, the school has gained more travel opportunities for students and faculty to study art and design through the generous support of our donors. This fall, Myers School of Art students will travel to Belgium to participate in a printmaking workshop and to the Venice Biennale, which is one of the most famous and prestigious international contemporary exhibitions in the world!