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Beyond the Institution: Creating an Independent Creative Life After Academia

Having just retired in August 2013 as Head of Printmaking, School of Fine Arts, Indiana University, Bloomington, I have had the privilege of IU's providing me with a studio for 22 years. More importantly, I have had many opportunities to compete for institutional grants for creative research and travel, including trips to our professional conferences. I was able to make really innovative work and take risks that otherwise might have been very difficult. I am now transitioning to my own recently acquired raw studio space beginning a new chapter in my life without institutional support.

Like many baby boomerish artists who were lucky enough to be in a tenured position for the better part of a career, I now find myself on my own. I propose a panel to share how we are resourcefully finding new ways to make our prints, travel, and conduct our creative research, privately and /or cooperatively, without the academy's assistance.

I will select artists about to retire or recently retired who are making choices instructive to all of us beyond the institution. Rather than select people I know, I prefer to do a general callout to artists/printmakers who fit the above criteria. I will select 3 who have made diverse, innovative, and viable choices that both older and younger colleagues will find interesting and useful.

Each selected artist will talk briefly about their history, present their new paths, then show some current work. Following, there will be an open question/answer session.

KEY WORDS: Finding innovative non-academic support for creative work after retirement.