

25th National Conference on the Beginning Design Student

College of Art and Design, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA

March 12-14 2009

But Also, We Are a Discipline.

In the spirit of Robert Venturi's *Complexity and Contradiction*, this conference adopts the phrase **But Also** as the conjunction that describes the complex and often-contradictory 'relationship between beginnings and disciplinarity.' In doing so, this conference joins last year's conference, *We Have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary*, to create a diptych: *We Have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary*, **But Also**, *We are a Discipline*. Commemorating 25 years of the NCBDS, this diptych explores two sides of one topic: beginnings and disciplinarity. Part one of this diptych, *We have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary*, explored 'the ways in which disciplines operate within beginning design education;' part two, *But Also, We are a Discipline*, explores the ways in which beginning design operates as a discipline. In other words, while *We have Never Been Pre-Disciplinary* considered the continuities between beginning design and the disciplines that follow, *But Also, We are a Discipline* considers beginning design as a discrete discipline with its own history, body of knowledge and educational challenges.

But Also, We are a Discipline invites submissions that explore beginning design's history, body of knowledge and the particular educational challenges that arise in its context, as well as attendant pedagogies, projects, and curricular strategies. Submissions are welcome from all, such as traditional design disciplines, allied disciplines in the fine arts, and disciplines that undertake 'design' activity without necessarily naming it as such. We also seek the participation from other disciplines, such as the cognitive and learning sciences, that have much to say about beginnings, disciplinarily, and perhaps beginning design.

Please submit 500 word abstracts by October 30, 2008 to NCBDS@LSU.EDU and questions to Co-Chairs Jim Sullivan (jsullivan@lsu.edu) or Matt Dun (mdunn1@lsu.edu).