**Biography of Heather Pastro**

 Heather Pastro is a Professor of Art Education in the Faculty of Education at Vancouver Island University where she mentors pre-service teachers and teaches art education methodology courses. Heather is a VIU Senator chairing and serving on institutional committees Heather is an active executive member of the B.C. Art Teacher’s Association, as well as a member of both the Canadian Society for Education through Art and the National Art Education Association. She has received recognition awards from the NAEA and the CSEA for her contributions to the field of art education. Her current research is in the area of visual literacy in art education curriculum and development. Heather holds an M.A. in Administration and Curriculum Development from San Diego State University and a B. Ed.in Art History and Art Education from the University of British Columbia.

Highlights in her career as an Art Educator have included working with teachers regionally and internationally on a variety of topics in art education, coordinating children’s art exhibitions at local and provincial galleries, chairing the BC Art Teacher’s Association annual provincial conference, and working with Binney and Smith, makers of Crayola products, as a Site Coordinator for the Western Pacific region of Canada. She has delivered scholarly papers at international conferences and has written many articles for professional journals, based on her current research. Heather has contributed her writing to two art education textbooks that are widely used in many university methodology courses. Over the span of thirty plus years, Heather has taught art from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and continues to teach art lessons, always mindful of the depth and breadth of art education. She is an advocate for the arts and continually supports and works with local arts boards and organizations.

Although teaching art requires much of her energy, Heather tries to make time to work in her own studio with a variety of media and feels that through the teaching and making of art, she is in her element.