First, to See: Line Drawing as a Research Method

Dr. Andrew Causey
Columbia College Chicago

This presentation explores the use of line drawing as a general interpretive process to aid visual perception. Following a brief introduction of the place of drawing in my research in Sumatra, Indonesia, and a rationale for such work in general, participants will practice the act of seeing—through drawing. We will hone existing skills of perception and eye-hand coordination by engaging with a short series of guided exercises. This is not a presentation on "how to draw" (nor are participants expected to have any so-called “artistic” talents). The focus of the presentation is on training ourselves to better see, not on producing finished drawings.

Making Art as Science

Dr. Heather Hurst
Skidmore College

New imaging techniques have increased the options for visual documentation, yet archaeological illustration continues to provide images that are central for scholarship and public outreach. The process of creating an illustration requires close engagement that often results in new observations and raises new questions. This presentation will share my process of illustrating ancient Mesoamerican paintings and architecture, as well as the research inspired by this process. We will also consider the role of illustrations as they move beyond initial documentation and take on a significant independent existence – when an image becomes an icon that stands for a culture, time period, or event.

Drawing the Field and Drawing in the Field

Dr. Susan Ossman
UC Riverside

The presentation will address how diverse mark-making practices associated with art can be a part of fieldwork, analysis, and conveying the results of research. Professor Ossman will present examples from her own practice ranging from note-taking to sketching to a particular practice called “almost writing.” The presentation will then focus on a particular piece in which this sketching/writing was used to evoke the travails of academic writing and explain how this work was part of the exhibition that was the primary mode of publication of this study. The presentation will include interactive moments when the audience will have a chance to experiment with some of the media and techniques discussed.