

'Web-ism': A New Art Movement for E-Generation Children

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Abstract. The 21st century brought with it unexpected and immense social changes. European countries struggle to renovate their aging schooling system. Undergoing reformation in order to prepare children to lead productive lives seems to be moving slowly compared to the unexpected rhythms of the socio-economic changes.

Far from being merely an adornment, arts are rightly claimed and accepted -at least in theory- as an essential factor in a complete and round education. Children and young people in the 21st century are already facing a diverse mixture of peoples in the classroom, a phenomenon which will continue at their future workplaces and is well accepted on worldwide social networks. Arts offer a 'natural', diverse and global vocabulary of symbols, images and cues. *Education in arts* contributes in learning to convey ideas, feelings and emotions by creating and performing, while *education through art* can enhance learning in other fields.

If we as educators want to make a change, it's high time we take the bull by the horns and realistically address and debate current issues related not only to art context but to art pedagogy. In this new information age, an innovative e-collaborative project focusing on education *in* and *through arts*, designed, continually supported and revised by the associated university departments, can work as a medium for developing cognitive skills that carry over into other areas.

Among the main aims of such a project, one could name a few general ones in the abstract, which will be expanded and explained in the full paper: It will offer participants the abilities to reflect, to link information from diverse subjects and sources, to generate ideas; to honour various traditions, to recognize historical achievements and enjoy new technologies via arts, to respect different cultures and accept various points of view; to testify and connect opinions, to develop higher-order thinking skills in students, to work and communicate creatively outside the boundaries of a single class, a single school, a single country; to draw reasoned conclusions and grasp the connections that lead to creative solutions.

This special @rt-platform, that we intend to 'build', can act as a kind of unifying force, as a 'cultural bridge', with arts being the key to accept and respect the 'other', to understand the world's cultures and civilization's legacies. This alone can be the main aim, the reason, in a general attempt of working together in establishing world's peace.