

Reciprocity | Relationality: Artful Connections between Child and Adult Artists

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Abstract

This round table presentation explores the 'Child+Adult Art Response Project' (C+AARP), at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne Australia. In this longitudinal project child artists and adult artists are invited to generate visual, social and cultural concepts as conversations across relational digital and situated times, spaces and places. This cross-generational art encounter disrupts more traditional notions of teacher/student adult/child power dynamics, creativity, artist relationships and knowledge.

Firstly, we present our qualitative action research related to the study that includes middle years primary children partnering with preservice secondary art teachers at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education. These two iterations of the project involve child and adult artists individually generating an original artwork to the provocation of INSIDE OUTSIDE that is shared with an artist partner for their artmaking response. As a relational spaces project this reciprocity and exchange of artistry, creativity, aesthetics and materiality creates a series

of pedagogical and experiential events and iterative boundaryless loops where both process and product, are process and product.

Participants are then invited to connect as artists within the cross-generational encounter, continuing the conversation through their response to the provocation of a child artist's INSIDE OUTSIDE artwork from the project.

Finally, we extend the concepts and possibilities of opening up C+AARP. Together we will consider the ways that the iterative boundaryless loops can be opened up as artful interventions that go beyond the initial boundaries of the project aims.

Keywords

Intergenerational art project, Reciprocity/relationality, Relational spaces, Artful interventions, Disruptions.