

The Pictorial Worlds of Future Art Teachers

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Abstract

At Dalarnas University, a student of subject teacher education aiming at art as a main subject is admitted by providing evidence of special aptitude, competence and ability to profit from the visual aspects of their education. One of the tasks is to submit a portfolio of five pictures with the applicant's personal preferences of art expression. Materials and techniques are optional but the students are urged to display a breadth with respect to both analog and digital visual techniques.

Following the development of art education in Sweden three phases can be discerned, a first phase where reproduction is at focus, a second phase where the artistic expression is elevated and a third phase where the communicative aspects of pictures are emphasized. The students admitted to art education as subject teachers have all acquainted themselves at school with an art education which according to the curriculum should focus on communicative aspects. In our study, we seek to find out older as well as current subject traditions, art genres and pictorial preferences finding expressions in the portfolios of the future art teachers.

To summarize, our study is about the visual preferences the future art teachers will bring into their studies. We have concentrated on the portfolios of the admitted students in the years 2012-2017. Our findings say a great deal about the students' previous background knowledge but also about their understanding of what art education is about, which in its turn carry some new ideas for the education of future art teachers.

Keywords

Art education, Portfolios, History of visual education, Pictorial preferences.