Valuable Time – Valuable People

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Abstract

Through this socially engaging art project, I aim to investigate the social interactions that might occur upon venturing beyond the expected conditions. The venue in which this intervention takes place is the main inspiration. The participants at a conference usually engage in interactions with other people by attending, viewing, reflecting, creating, discussing, performing, and more. I intervene these particular conditions of a conference. I install an intervention that consists of a table covered with weird playing cards and note paper vectors. These playing cards depict images and words that imply relationships in learning spaces. The keywords, the words on the playing cards, describe notions and concerns in art education. The note paper vectors include messages written by junior high school students who were asked to respond to Human Rights Day with a written message. The juxtaposition of the items illustrates the vision of Paulo Freire regarding the interchangeable roles of teacher and student because the information and knowledge from both sides (i.e., teacher and students) are placed together. My purpose by using the haphazard arrangement of playing cards and note paper vectors is to trigger thoughts, discussions, and critical reflections on important topics in art education. Concurrently, by placing playing cards in the conference venue, I would like to address the tensions between valuable time and wasted time, and between working time and spare time. The findings will have implications inside and beyond learning settings (e.g., school classrooms, lecture rooms, studios, discussion panels) about the transformative potential of life experiences.