

Materiality and Immateriality of Crafts

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Abstract

How to teach sustainable development to a child while you are doing unnecessary products; products that no one even in the first place wants? (Some children or their parents don't fetch products at the end of a term but leave them to school or throw them to a rubbish bin.) One answer is to make necessary items, the second to do for instance immaterial crafts. The research focuses on environmental aesthetic approaches with the focus on the relationship to environment. One's relation toward crafts is rather materialistic. In crafts making the relation towards one's own environment and materials is concrete and straightforward: one's own experiences, use of one's own body and making things by oneself are highlighted. However the question of immaterial or temporal crafts is emerged and interesting: digital world, art world (in the basic arts education crafts are art) and sustainable development are challenging to make crafts differently. Can immaterial crafts exist or is it just crafts culture? What does it mean one's agency? In my presentation, I ask these questions in relations to the new materialistic theories. I approach the subject of my research by means of phenomenology. The research material was collected over the period 2007–2013 from visual arts education in the Finnish basic arts edu-

cation, where crafts form together with fine arts, architecture and audiovisual art the family of visual arts. The ongoing PhD research focuses on the basic arts education which is given to children and young people.

Keywords

New materiality, Environment, Relationship to environment, Basic arts education, Children and young people.