

The Graduate School of Education
at The University of Melbourne present

UNESCO Observatory Multi-Disciplinary Journal in the Arts

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SPECIAL ISSUE

A/r/tography and the Visual Arts

Volume 3 | Issue 1 | 2013

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Guest Editors *Rita L. Irwin*
Anita Sinner

Editor
Associate Editor
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Lindy Joubert
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EDITORIAL TEAM

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ABOUT THE E-JOURNAL

The UNESCO Observatory refereed e-journal is based within the Graduate School of Education at The University of Melbourne, Australia. The journal promotes multi-disciplinary research in the Arts and Education and arose out of a recognised need for knowledge sharing in the field. The publication of diverse arts and cultural experiences within a multi-disciplinary context informs the development of future initiatives in this expanding field. There are many instances where the arts work successfully in collaboration with formerly non-traditional partners such as the sciences and health care, and this peer-reviewed journal aims to publish examples of excellence.

Valuable contributions from international researchers are providing evidence of the impact of the arts on individuals, groups and organisations across all sectors of society. The UNESCO Observatory refereed e-journal is a clearing house of research which can be used to support advocacy processes; to improve practice; influence policy making, and benefit the integration of the arts in formal and non-formal educational systems across communities, regions and countries.

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Special Issue: A/r/tography and the Arts

Guest Editors

Rita L. Irwin | Anita Sinner

THEME

To be engaged in the practice of a/r/tography means to inquire in the world through an ongoing process of art making in any art form and writing not separate or illustrative of each other but interconnected and woven through each other to create relational and/or enhanced meanings. A/r/tographical work are often rendered through the methodological concepts of contiguity, living inquiry, openings, metaphor/metonymy, reverberations and excess, which are enacted and presented/performed when a relational aesthetic inquiry condition is envisioned as embodied understandings and exchanges between art and text, and between and among the broadly conceived identities of artist/researcher/teacher. A/r/tography is inherently about self as artist/researcher/teacher yet it is also social when groups or communities of a/r/tographers come together to engage in shared inquiries, act as critical friends, articulate an evolution of research questions, and present their collective evocative/provocative works to others (see <http://m1.cust.educ.ubc.ca/Artography/>).

This special issue of Multi-Disciplinary Research in the Arts invites original creative and scholarly inquiry that engages in critical debates and issues regarding a/r/tographical methodologies; are exemplars of critical approaches to a/r/tographical research; and/or extend the boundaries of inquiry-based research. Contributions are welcome from disciplines across the arts, humanities and social sciences and in a wide range of formats including articles, essays, and artistic interludes, which explore diverse forms of the arts from drama, dance, poetry, narrative, music, visual arts, digital media and more.

Drawing group: The table was set in an artful fashion

Petra Zantingh
Concordia University
Montreal

ABSTRACT

This short film illustrates and explains some of the concepts of an arts-based research methodology as a way of exploring what happens in an intimate setting for a drawing group. Artography is the right fit for this inquiry because of flexible concepts that are not only vigorous but shift between subjects, enabling analysis not just in the art or teaching but also in the spaces between these locations. It is here in the concepts or renderings that new meanings and discoveries are produced. Artography is an arts methodology that stresses living inquiry and contemplative practice.

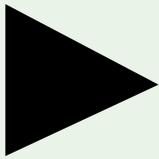
KEYWORDS

Artography, drawing, art education, adult learners, aesthetics, fear

DESCRIPTION

This eight-minute power point presentation is based on an essay entitled A/r/tography and the Friday morning drawing group and describes the process of teaching a group of older women how to draw and the magic that happens in that space. Attempting to visually describe how a trusting environment filled with light and beauty and budding friendships can encourage the artistic practice, develop and hone skills, and eradicate the fear sometimes associated with art making. Cultivating a sense of caring by training the eye to not only see the visible but also the invisible.

Narrated by the author, it gives the viewer a glimpse of what happens in this particular drawing group and the resulting (artist) documentary artwork. The author using a G4 iPhone camera took all of the photographs.



The table was prepared in artful fashion