

Wed 9<sup>th</sup>  
10:15

Professor Susan Wright is Chair of Arts Education at the University of Melbourne and the Director of the UNESCO Observatory of Arts Education. Previous appointments have included Professor of Early Childhood at NIE in Singapore and Director of the Centre for Applied Studies in Early Childhood at QUT, Brisbane. Her teaching and research focus on meaning-making and communication using artistic symbol systems and multi-modal forms of expression. Susan has been an active researcher and publisher, including two sole-authored research books: *Understanding Creativity in Early Childhood: Meaning-Making and Children's Drawings* and *The Arts, Young Children and Learning*.

**Metaphor, Meaning, Movement: Embodied Experience through the Arts**

At its core, the arts are *embodied experience through action and representation*. This is a form of intelligence that underpins all other forms of reasoning and learning in other symbol systems, such as storying, writing or numbering. Vygotsky referred to form as a verb and affirmed that art exists as the physical manifestation of an idea in motion. The arts take on allegorical resemblances through their form – through the synergistic interaction between the artist's embodied processes and the abstract and physical properties inherent in the piece itself.

