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The role, meaning, importance and possibilities of images in the learning process of (art) education

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The period of images/pictures is coming! Wherever we look, we are inundated with them, also, and perhaps mostly with the help of modern information technologies. The so-called visual and artistic literacies and pictorial sciences are coming increasingly in the foreground of needs of the Slovenian and International public. Otherwise (too) slowly, also due to lack of interest of school policy, that is preferentially dedicated to the problems of reading/writing/speaking and mathematical and natural science literacies. However, one of the leading innovators in the field of interactive technology has said, more than 15 years ago: "The world of words and numbers is irrevocably dead". Which may be one of the reasons for concern. This more than radical statement was then referring to the role of images in educational processes...

In this paper the author will present some of the reasons for the growing importance of images in education. These have roots in the invention of photography in the 19th century and the unstoppable development (learning) technologies in the last 50 years. Working with images/pictures (either as a means to achieve other goals either as the end goal) is seen as basic in all school subjects in primary and secondary schools, last and not least, also in art education lessons.

Creating, studying, understanding and interpretation of images/pictures will be presented with the examples of works of art from artists and children/youth, visual communication and graphic expressions such as, histograms, graphs and more. Some art pedagogy examples will be presented from the school practice.