

Digital Arts in Special Education: A potential bridge for Inclusion?

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"A School for All" emerges as the educational premise that aims to serve most vulnerable students, those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. The concept of Inclusive Education pertains to offering equal chances to all students, in order to receive common education regardless of their cognitive, physical or emotional condition. Within this scope, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and most notably interactive multimedia-based content and applications are used in the educational process producing promising outcomes mostly in the special education field. As far as arts education is concerned, art classes offer many opportunities for inclusive educational settings. Yet, while most common creative activities suggested for students with intellectual disabilities in an art class are related with arts (drawing, painting, clay modeling, collage making) and crafts (bead stringing, sewing, carpentry, tapestry), introducing Digital Arts to students with intellectual disabilities can be quite challenging for art educators/teaching artists, especially when they have inadequate training in digital media, or when the students have no prior knowledge of computers and digital technology.

Bios:

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