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Art as a window of study: screens and blackboards within the frame

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In his book *Shape of Things* (1999), Flusser describes windows as devices that display and connect. Through the window one can look at the outside world without incurring danger, therefore it is a safe space for theorization. Inspired by Flusser, we understand the blackboard and the screen within schools as educational versions of windows that display the outside world in a safe way to elicit theorization, in which process an educational distance is created. Is art equally a possibility for theorization and safe study? As we consider the frame as a metaphor for the display of art, we also make the argument that the metaphoric frame is also a kind of window. In this paper firstly, we discuss different “windows” in classrooms and art and secondly, we reflect on what happens when art is viewed through the window of the classroom and the classroom is viewed through the window of art.

By discussing two art exhibitions in university galleries - one in Belgium and another in the USA - as case studies in which school devices (blackboards and screens) were used, we consider their differences and interaction as window devices. We then discuss their potential as art frames, in which both the art space and the school are profaned and the role of art as a window of study is problematized. Based on that, we advocate that instead of or along with studying art in schools, art spaces should be created within their walls so art can be liberated from a contemplative distance.