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The Asia Art Archive: A site for the continuing professional development of Irish art teachers about contemporary Asia art

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This study follows on from research undertaken by the researcher as part of an “educator in residency” programme at the Asia Art Archive (AAA), an archive of contemporary Asia art, in Hong Kong in 2016. The study focuses on CPD for art educators utilising an online archive. The desired outcome of this study was to determine how the Asia Art Archive website could be utilised for the continuing professional development of art teachers in Ireland and the enhancement of teaching and learning about contemporary Asia art in art education in second level schools.

The literature associated with the study involved an examination of continuing professional development (CPD) for second level art teachers internationally. The context for the establishment of the Learning and Participation programme within the Asia Art Archive (AAA) is outlined. The visual art curricula in both countries were reviewed with particular emphasis on the role of contemporary art in 21st century education in both jurisdictions and the potential of online resources in teaching and learning was examined.

The approach used was Collaborative Action Research. The author established a professional learning community with eight art teachers, introduced them to the AAA website and facilitated them in utilising this resource for their own professional development. In this paper the findings relating to the use of an online archive for CPD, teacher engagement in the professional learning community and the impact on teaching and learning are discussed. The potential for including Asia art in the Irish curriculum is considered.