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Uses of public art by teachers in Finnish schools

Oona Myllyntaus

University of Helsinki, Finland; oonamyllyntaus@helsinki.fi

In Finland works of art have been used as a teaching aid and teaching material in schools for most of the 1900s. The "Arts for Schools" Association, which operated in Finland in 1906 –1980, delivered original works of art and reproductions to schools around the country for decades. Today, contemporary Finnish school architecture has been recognized around the world, and in Finnish municipalities kindergartens and schools are the most popular locations for works of art of municipal art collections. Current Finnish formal learning environments have, nevertheless, not been studied widely from an aesthetic point of view. This presentation explores aesthetic learning environments by explaining how teachers today utilize in teaching the school architecture and public art placed in the schools where they teach.

The empirical data consist of survey answers collected in fall of 2017 from the members of the Association of Art Teachers in Finland. The interviews of few visual arts teachers at different educational levels support the survey answers. This mainly qualitative data set is analysed with Atlas.ti program and by applying content analysis to it using concepts of visual literacy and multimodality, in particular.

I expect that the results of the research show that in Finland, visual art teachers, in specific, still use public art to some extent as a tool and as material in teaching. As using works of art in teaching art teachers' attempt is to develop students' wide-ranging expertise and implement interactive and experiential learning.