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Contemporary Art: Learning Methods and Tools for Distance Learning

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The EU reference framework for key competences for lifelong learning (implemented in Latvia from 2016 as ESF project) defines ‘cultural awareness and expression’ as one of the competences contributing to the individual’s social cohesion and sense of identity. In respect of the latter, visual literacy has been defined as a specific competence developed through an interdisciplinary approach: the individual develops her self-competence in the creative process; her social competence by displaying and communicating the outcome of her creative work; her methodological competence by selecting the technique and outlay to manifest her idea (Wagner, Schönau 2016).

The analysis of the means of the artistic expression of an artist as an information medium helps students to discover the pathways of visual communication and to recognize signs, symbols, archetypes, narratives and other elements of cultural communication. The following task is embodiment of the acquired knowledge as an artistic expression. Thus the students both explore theoretical and practical realms of artistic experience.

I have eight years of experience of teaching visual art for lower secondary and upper secondary level students at the Riga Distance Education Secondary School. I am responsible for preparing online resources, video lessons, online tests and practical assignments for distance learning, as well as for conducting webinars and online communication with students. The requirements for the tests and assignments are being changed yearly in order to ensure the maximum efficiency of the feedback and the assessment of the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the students.