

An Inter-Regional Comparison of the Practice of Islam through Art Education

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Abstract

In Islam, religious faith influences every aspect of daily life, including school education, as stated by Islamic scholar Marmaduke Pickthall (2008): ‘From the proper Muslim standpoint, all education is alike religious. ... In a real Muslim school there would be no separate “religious” education’. This principle applies to art education as well. The author’s investigation so far has revealed that Muslim teachers connect Islamic beliefs and customs to their art education practices. This kind of phenomenon has been defined as the ‘practice of Islam through art education’ and structured as the relationship between art education and the Islamic faith. The following is an example: to achieve an appreciation of ‘Allah’s creation’ in the practice of Islam, art teachers encourage students to focus on living things, based on verses from the Quran (88: 17-20). To a certain extent, this can be considered the general tendency in Islam, based on the study in the several fields. This would be a key fact to consider in the construction of an appropriate art education system for Muslim children. This presentation aims to show several cases of and regional differences in ‘the practice of Islam through art education’.

Keywords

Art education, Islam, Comparative study.