

Is Peace Out of Fashion? – Societal Challenges in Art Education

Raquel Pelayo¹, Teresa Fonseca²

¹i2ADS, Portugal; ²CEAU, Portugal

Abstract

Nationalism can be a particular form of identity that deviates the focus on one's self to the nation's self. The individual self is compliant, and, in the strongest forms of nationalism, it is annulled and assimilated by the group. A few generations ago, the Industrial revolution gave rise to forms of nationalism that spread all over the civilized world. Soon Europe's nations witnessed that form of identity construction fuelling hate for otherness, which made possible two massive and extremely mortal wars that devastated humankind in the first half of the twentieth century.

In the period following World War II, a devastated Europe found ways of reconstructing itself physically and psychologically. Artists and the education through art movement played an important role in this cultural and spiritual healing, founded on the ideal of peace maintenance. As these war nightmares faded away, amid time and memory, peace is becoming taken for granted. It is out of fashion.

Today, the digital revolution is giving rise to globalization and, once again, one can see various signs of that same ill form of identity called nationalism

reemerging. Global menaces like the lack of ecologic sustainability of the planet, new wars, terrorism and massive migrations are demanding that we rethink identity.

This contribution discusses art education approaches to diversity and cultural changes departing from the results of an experimental workshop "Uma Cidade Para os Teus Olhos" (A City for your Eyes).

Keywords

Identity, Art Education, Drawing, Art, Architecture.