

# Primo Levi's Demand for Contemporary Art Education; What Pedagogy Do Artist Educators Need to Address an Existential Dimension in Their Educational Praxis?

Janeke Wienk

ArtEZ University of the Arts, Netherlands, The

## Abstract

**In his book 'If this is a man' Primo Levi demands his readers to consider and to meditate on a daily bases on the question of what it means to be human in and with the world (Levi, 1946). Although this question is still urgent and relevant for every human being, an existential dimension is hardly addressed in educational contexts today. Janeke Wienk, researcher at the professorship Art- and Cultural education, states that, if any existential dimension can be addressed in education at all, it can be done in art pre-eminently. In this phd research project she takes this existential questioning into research with young artist educators at IMAE (International Masters Artist Educators), a new program at ArtEZ University of the Arts, led by dr. John Johnston, who frames the program in the context of conflict- and peace studies. Janeke Wienk designed an innovative project, based on professor Gert Biesta educational theory, that invites the student to respond to Primo Levi's question in an artistic way, leading to new insights for a contemporary art pedagogy that helps artist educators to meet the challenges of new contemporary educational contexts in**

**the 21th century.**