Modern Art Applied in Education Field to Build Independence and Creativity

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Abstract. Children of independence usually are captured with the quality of being creative. Modern art, the field of imagination and freedom, if combined with education, would associate the creativity and reason in children’s mind, which encourages them to form logical and innovative ideas. Special thinking way will bring children attention and respect from others, which benefits their own independence and pride.

Building Independence with Creation in Education

Contribution of education to human-beings which has been praised through the countless generations will never end. One of those great influences is, whatever family the student comes from, or whoever he is, a genius or an ordinary one, with a mind of reason or emotion, he deserves newer thinking, the opportunity to change their fate, and finally reach for self-realization, simply as Maslow insists in human-oriented theory.

The problem we are faced with is, students are not aware of their directions, or what they really want from their hearts, let alone planning their life or catching the opportunities they require indeed. Most studies blame the lack of independence, for which family will be the main responsibility assumer.

However, the writer thinks that even beyond family, increasing creativity may also help in developing children’s independence.

Independence somehow matches creativity. From observations in Chinese schools (Dalian No.8 high school, Sichuan University, Nanjing University), the shining points of independent students are as follow: Knowing about themselves clearly and form unusual views. Being sensitive to surroundings. Following special route of thinking. With imagination fulfilling their minds, however, they can be reasonable at the same time. Enjoying playing logical games in daily life and building thinking models when solving problems. Born to be humorous. Being good at using metaphor when describing their thinking routes. All these facts observed are related to the quality of creativity.

How independence and creativity are connected is beyond me. May be the brilliant and unusual thinking brought its owner confidence and high pride for being special, even brought them curiosity toward world and truth. But at least, a new direction of independence forming is not up in the air any longer. Even the family education stops a child from being independent, school may also help, by increasing his creativity, even if there will be little remarkable effect in a short time. The greatest achievement in one’s life is supposed reaching the level of self-realization. Everybody deserves the chance. And what education works for is, creating more chances for this sweet dream.

So how could we try? The writer thinks that it’s high time that modern arts should be shot into education.

How the Upward Trend in Modern Art Helps Creativity in Education

Combing education and art is reasonable.

About modern art, the society can hardly figure out what it works for. Is that the master piece of history, or a dozen of junk in the river? Beauty no longer behaves as it should have been, but played around by high price announcements from the appraisal institution and advertisements from art
schools. It seems that art has to be accused of, for the power of aesthetic is up in the air.

But after careful observation, the conclusion may be totally different. Actually, the current of art is sinking into the ground, so is the privilege of aesthetic. Dislike classic or academic art, modern art now tolerates the variation in framers, the materials and theme of work. Without aesthetic dignity developed from skill trainings like academic artists did, the art work refuses no one to join in. Working materials vary from rubbish to living animals, and the form can be painting, sculptures, architects, even accumulations. The themes are freely chosen, exploration for unawareness or new route of trails, philosophy expressing, even caring toward daily life. Modern art is tolerating everything.

The sinking of aesthetic privilege matches the sinking of creating privilege. Creation contained in art fits the starvation of education well. Students can be framers, and modern art works will associate reason and imagination in their minds. Cooperation of modern art and education is promised, and now we are going to explore how to practice this theory in the following passages.

How can Modern Art Builds Logic, Memory and Association?

Modern art has a particular characteristic. It calls for the framers to read the material more than expressing their own views. A framer of modern art tells what the material tries to tell, which actually asks for one's deep observation and his sensitive mind. This is also the ability we ask for when trying to build creation in education, for practical creation partly rely on the level of cognition toward world.

We have 3 aspects that can be devoted in with art. The 1st is combining logic and association. The 2nd is enlarging memory. And the 3rd is enlightening new inventions. The conclusions are all based on my observation on creative students I found in high schools and universities, who also mentioned their special brain, work in their conversations.

Combining Logic and Association

Usually we deepen our questions following our so-called logic in our minds and try to catch up with the words flowing in our brains. But in my view, logic is what our expression has to follow when thinking has to be formed into exact words. Thinking itself is not logical at all, especially creative thinking. Trapped in dilemma, answers are not far away if we are armed with the ability of building rich association.

For example, a man trying to figure out “a being between 2nd dimension and 3rd dimension” could hardly answer the question merely with his logic. On walking out of his room, he saw a beautiful glossy China which has a circle painted on. Suddenly he realized that the being he was finding is the unclosed curve, which forever reaches from 2nd dimension but never close in 3rd dimension.

The sample seems to be strange, but this was the real experience of my own. Such kind of association can easily escape from our attention, but might be of use. We apply association in the same way we taste modern art—both of them ask for our direct feeling and sensitivity.

Tasting modern art is not merely about figuring out the technique and artistry of the art works, or guessing what the artists want to tell. Whatever a work has shown to its audiences, emotions of fear or anger, reflections of daily life or abstract logic, impressive shock or curiosity, no matter how the first bite on the art work tastes, the feelings successfully sent to the audiences are exactly what the art work wanted to deliver. The direct feelings deserve respect. Applying association also works like the “first bite”, calling for the sudden impulse of mind to accurate thinking, uniting everything that seemingly has no connection. Art and thinking sometimes share the similar working way.

Enlarging Memory Storage

There are 2 basic kinds of reading materials we have to memorize. The first is pure knowledge, usually explaining the inside work of a phenomenon. The other kind is “logic ring”, who usually appear in philosophy readings.
**Pure knowledge**

To deal with pure knowledge, the most effective way is building a mind palace\(^1\). Forming information into tandem memory has been welcomed since early time, especially when we pack word information into images for simplified memorizing. When plenty of images unite, we can store the tandem memory by building mind palace. Modern art enlarges storage of mind palace. What a student builds in his art work can become a new room, where new association can be easily stored.

*Synesthesia*\(^2\) also helps in increasing memory. Synesthetic people naturally transform numbers and words into colors and tastes, and remember the tandem order of color and taste by repeating. Some synesthetic ones are innate, but most of them acquire this skill by drawing trainings.[1] Match specified numbers or letters with chosen colors and repeat it for times, then we can see the color truly existing when we are reading English or math books. (I am synesthetic myself and when I was 5 I developed the skill on my own, so it really exists, and 1/3 of professional painters are synesthetic) The below will show how the numbers seems to be colorful in a synesthetic man’s visual sense. Art definitely develops sensitivity toward colors, which may bring more shortcut to thinking [2]

Talking of the method of operating synesthesia and mind palace, we can set an instance. When memorizing numbers imagine them to be images. We can imagine freely. In my case, the series of 10 (from 10 to 19) will be the images of lips, whose concretization can be found in figure 2; let’s continue, series of 20 (from 20 to 29), leaves; series of 30, planets; series of 40, roses, 50, pieces of cloud, 60, shining stars, 70, eyes. Referring to the synesthetic colors that form in our own minds, in the following pictures we put different colors in to the images that we just created to simplify memorizing. We can remember 13 as a lip in light yellow, 68 as a dark blue star, 37 as a blue planet…….(Referring to figure 3).

Mind palace owner usually pack 1 to 2000 in to images for easier remembering. With synesthesia they can reduce the images stored from 2000 to less, but more colors to support.

![Color of 1, Color of 2, Color of 3, Color of 4, Color of 5, Color of 5](image)

*Figure 1. The colors of numbers in synesthetic view.*

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\(^1\)Memory keeping device based on a scene we are familiar with, whose appearance are usually rooms

\(^2\)A group of people who can see colors or have taste when they read a number or a letter.
Logic ring

Logic ring refers to the hidden logic in our daily speeches. Most of them are beautiful and wise, fulfilled with the fascination of logic, driving their readers to storage those star lights in their own brains. [3] When memorizing logic rings, they usually easily remain in particular scenes. So certain scenes can be created to assist memorizing. Make up a story and let the key words in, to support logic rings. Key words may hardly be left in minds as time flows and memory serves little, but the scene itself will remain even key words have gone. The left logic ring can still work even with other key words.

For example, Jim read a novel and loved one sentence saying, “If I were not invited to dinner, how could I tell how it tastes?” There were key words like “dinner” and “the taste”, which created a certain scene but finally slap away from Jim. But the logic ring itself still remains even the key words are gone. The ring is, “If A doesn’t exist, how could we judge A”? Long time afterward, when Jim was working on his philosophy paper, he recalled the logic ring and wrote, “if a man doesn’t have a soul, how could we tell that he can be torn apart by the punishment of his soul for his crime?”
Logic rings may accumulate and pile up. A room like mind palace may be asked to store the rings. Rings can be simplified into images, like arrows with certain directions. What art helps is that, on reading the images stored in mind palace, we can cost less time to recall how those images stand for logic rings.

**Art and Scientific Practice**

Modern art tolerates the varying materials. Painting design based on silhouette, accumulated rubbish, human body paintings, and enormous composition of a picture in the countryside. The inspiration from art has contributed to uniting technology, wisdom, and beauty in designing.

For example, folding fin aircraft, whose designers used to be trapped in the dilemma of managing folding fins, finally succeeded by applying the folding skills of Japanese Origami in his design work. Optical illusion paintings first created by Victor Vasavely has been participating in psychological experiments of visual error. Insipired by silhouette, detecting orbit of satellites with the shadows of radio has become a brand new patent.

In a world where diversified talented men are welcomed, who are required to mix knowledge from both science and art, modern art is not merely the fountain of inspiration, but a bridge between science and art. I hope that children inspired by modern art can ignore the gap between different fields. They can figure out brilliant scientific design even reading literature work or visiting art exhibitions, and they can get moved by the spirit of an enthusiastic scientist in his experiments or admire the endless beauty hidden in a formula. Art is a kind of inspiration, but it’s also a bridge, where there is no field limitation, and knowledge is free to flow.

**Summary**

How independence and creation are connected is beyond me. What I have observed is, independent children from violent families are sometimes spoken highly of for their energetic creativity, on which, however, families have little influence. Creativity lies in freedom, and art is the creation of freedom. Children may be supposed to bring up more perception and sensitivity when art becomes a part of their lives, then listen to their hearts more and finally find their own directions. Being special sometimes brings pride and dignity, bringing attention and respect, which may become one’s motivation of being outstanding. That may be how they build up their own views and independence. The practice we referred to about art is not for raising aesthetic taste, but a introduction of designing and imaging. Art is an outlet of personal view, and during one’s research on his work referring to the creation of others, thousands of ideas may run across.

What teachers need to do is leading their students to think in a way where the art work they work on become a part of their mind palace or contributed to their logic rings. The excitement a mind design brings may be incredibly radioactive to a student. Little as the possibility there is in training creation and independence; we still have the hope left. The truth would go straight if nonlinear conditions have all been provided. In the case of education, art is one of those conditions. Wish talented students be encouraged, and wish promising students find their new ideas which enlighten them. Wish cooperation between modern art and education create a brave new future.

**References**

