

OLD AND NEW EUROPE

ART AS A KEY TO UNDERSTAND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS

#old & new
europe

Poland - Italy - Portugal

TEACHING ART - PLEASURE OR CHALLENGE?

In most cases, artistic subjects are considered to be the less important among subjects taught in primary or middle schools. There is only one or two hours of art class per week. In Poland this subject disappears after the 7th grade, in Italy and in Portugal it is taught only in primary school. As a result of such an approach, students lose interest in arts and believe that this subject is completely useless.

Consequently, young people who are not interested and don't understand the art, don't want to participate in cultural events. Nonetheless, paintings are a testimony of past time, of the period in which they were created, and they are part of our cultural heritage. We strongly believe that a good introduction of subject – historical and cultural context of the times – helps to understand a piece of art and leads to its appreciation by a young viewer. Artistic heritage is extremely rich in our regions, unfortunately not many people are interested in, and pupils and their families don't even try to develop their knowledge about this subject. This project is a perfect occasion to discover our local artists and make them known abroad. Our goal is to increase the sensibility of youngsters towards arts, to show them that there is a close correlation between arts and everyday life, and teach them how to be aware art audience.



POLISH, ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE TEACHERS EXPERIMENT A NEW APPROACH

Thanks' to international cooperation, we have a chance to convince our students that artistic tendencies were developed and transferred in Europe even though the Internet and fast ways of communication didn't exist yet, and they were related to political and social context of these times.

We are convinced that teaching of art correlated to other subjects will help pupils to be successful: methods of teaching artistic and non-artistic subjects, and of course their contents, are such diverse that putting them together is surprising, and that way more interesting for students, but also it demands their involvement in learning.



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AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH

The innovation of our project is based on development of an attractive method of teaching satisfying the needs and expectations of young people, using activating methods on class and digital technologies as well, adjusted to educational systems in different countries:

- multidisciplinary analyze of paintings: before regarding a painting, students participate in a literature and history class in order to discover what was happening in Europe in this period. This way, they will get a large knowledge about the era – historical events and their impacts, life conditions, musical, literature and artistic trends – thanks' to which it will be easier to understand the message of the painting;



HOW TO MIX ART WITH HISTORY AND IT?

It's possible! That's how we did it:

- we chose a picture important for our city, or region;
- we asked pupils to do research about this picture, its author, its style and the time when the picture was painted;
- we went to see it (in museum or city hall): pupils were supposed to make pictures or short videos, talk to people working there, in order to collect materials;
- we came back and start discussing why this picture is so important;
- we invited pupils to unchain their imagination and use this picture as inspiration for their own creation, using IT.

- creative use of a painting/ work of art which is an inspiration for pupils: they will create their own products, like short films – learning how to write a screenplay, make videos, awareness of intellectual property, copyright, protection of image;
- team work – working with project method helps to develop soft skills, like discussion, searching of compromise, cooperation, respect to other people and their opinions;
- participation in cultural life of the regions, events and expositions organized by local museums and cultural institutions.



The portrait
of the
Marquis of Pombal



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WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

It is obvious that in order to teach something, we have to learn it first - that's why we started our project adventure with workshop for teachers.

VIDEO WORKSHOP: OLSZTYN, FEBRUARY 2020

Trainer: Maciej Janicki, film-maker

Under the direction of an experienced film-maker, teachers from Lamkowo, Caxias, Folignano-Maltignano and Teramo learned how to set up camera, lighting, microphone, shoot and edit footage. This was the unique opportunity to use professional equipment!

But the aim of the workshop was different: how to make a film using an ordinary digital camera or a smartphone. It turns out that this is perfectly possible. The teachers, enriched with new skills, returned to the schools to share them with their students.

And then came COVID-19...



MATERIALS



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THEATRE WORKSHOP: CAXIAS, NOVEMBER 2021

Trainer: Manuel Henriques, actor, director playwright

A daily body and voice warm-up to start. And then reaching for memories, emotions, working with the text. Presenting it in front of the group - not as easy as you might think! And finally working together on a quickly improvised scene. Together does not mean easier - on the contrary: we experienced first-hand that sometimes it is not easy to come to an agreement when different artistic visions clash.

Three days of completely new experiences that gave us a great tool to use in class.



MATERIALS



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WORKSHOPS FOR PUPILS

As we mentioned, COVID-19 came along, and the pandemic made our plans very difficult. The youth film camp planned for spring 2020 has been cancelled. Instead, we recorded a series of tutorials 'Make movies with your mobile', which, combined with the skills of the teachers, gave the students a tool to work (and maybe even play) with. Watching the film 'The Portrait of the Marquis of Pombal', we have the impression that it is the latter, however.

MAKE MOVIES WITH YOUR MOBILE

The series of tutorials is made up of five episodes, each dedicated to one topic essential to making a good film.:

- Shooting
- Sound and Editing
- Copyright
- Presentation face camera
- Scene's character



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WORKSHOPS FOR PUPILS

PAINTING WORKSHOP: FOLIGNANO, JUNE 2022

After two years of waiting and rescheduling, it happened! The first trilateral workshop for students took place in picturesque Folignano, province of Ascoli Piceno, under the hot Italian sun. In order to get a good feel for the spirit of Italian history and art, the participants started the adventure with a visit to Rome - the Colosseum and the Roman Forum seen up close made a huge impression on us! We were also impressed by Folignano and Teramo, our partner cities, which cannot compete with the capital in terms of size, but in terms of beauty and wealth of monuments.

During the workshop, the pupils discovered the work of Osvaldo Licini, a painter from the Ascoli Piceno region, an abstract artist and lover of graphic painting. Inspired by his work, the pupils created their own works of art, on paper and on T-shirts. The culmination of the artistic struggle was the joint painting of a mural.

The workshop was not only a creative and artistic experience - it was also an opportunity to learn about the culture of another country, test their language skills and make new friends - the latter experience the youngsters were looking forward to.



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WORKSHOPS FOR PUPILS

ARTISTIC WORKSHOP: OLSZTYN, OCTOBER 2022

Another international youth meeting, this time under the Polish sun, which was fine despite the autumn weather.

We started with a bit of history and a visit to Warsaw, including the Warsaw Uprising Museum. And then it was very artistic time: theatre, film, sound, art - we showed Olsztyn from a completely different perspective: the students visited a radio station (where they were interviewed), a theatre (including the usually inaccessible nooks and crannies) and the art department at Olsztyn University.

They learned how to shout, stomp and jump to release their voices and emotions. They learned how to put sound to film and how sounds are created.

There was also time to learn about the natural heritage for which Olsztyn is famous, and to socialise around a traditional campfire. It was really hard to part!

The last months of the project were overshadowed by the war in Ukraine: such a new Europe was not something we wanted to talk about. The visit to Olsztyn was an opportunity to learn about Ukrainian culture and musical traditions, which were very much to the liking of the guests from Western Europe.



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WORKSHOPS FOR PUPILS

ART DICTATION ON LINE, MAY 2021

As the pupils could not go abroad in spring 2021, we organised an artistic on line workshop to celebrate Europe Day.

The idea was simple:

Each country has 2 teams. Each team, made up of 3 students, chooses a painting by a national artist.

- 2 students prepare a text describing the painting, that will be used for the dictation. The text has to be simple and should give clear and visual instructions for the reproduction of the painting.

- 1 student (the presenter) prepares a short presentation (1-2 minutes) about the painting/artist.

Each team must write a list of material needed for the reproduction and share it.

Activity via Zoom

Pupils are splitted into groups like this:

Team PT1 + Team IT1

Team IT2 + Team PL1

Team PL2 + Team PT2

Team PT1 dictates its painting and each of the 3 students from Team IT1 draws/paints as dictated (30m)

They swap roles: Team IT1 dictates its painting and all 3 students from Team PT1 draw/paint as dictated.

All teams do the same simultaneously.

There is a break of 30m so that students could finish their job.

All participants meet again.

The presenter PT1 asks the painters to show their pieces of art and shows the original version, presenting its artistic value and its painter.

The presenter IT1 does the same and so goes meeting.

Students share what they experience with this activity. Use Mentimeter to check their opinions.

Pupils had a nice time during this activity. Although it has appeared that it is not easy to be an artist!



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ERASMUS DAYS ON LINE MEETINGS

We celebrated Erasmus Days together twice, meeting remotely and talking about what unites us and what divides us.

Brian, Alice, Thomas, Victoria, Lise, Dylan, Francesco, Laura, Raffaele, Alice, Marysia, Beata, Marcin, Daria and Kajetan presented themselves, their schools and regions, in English of course.

And a year later they were joined by students from Teramo.

Although an online meeting cannot replace traditional contact, nevertheless, given the obstacles beyond our control, we greatly appreciate the possibilities of technology. IT at the service of the project!



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PROJECT IN NUMBERS

3 countries

3 schools

1 university

1 cultural
institution

2 workshops
for teachers

2 youth
meetings

20 teachers

100 pupils

video

theatre

painting

art

PROJECT LEADER



WWW.CPF.OLSZTYN.PL

PROJECT PARTNERS



WWW.STOWARZYSZENIE-WROTA.PL



WWW.ISCFOLIGNANOMALTIGNANO.EDU.IT



WWW.SAOBRUNO.PT



WWW.UNITE.IT



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