

Art Education is... Necessary.



Art education is: making a mess

There is sometimes no better way to create, than to first destroy. To break down assumptions and old opinions and **open our minds** to so many new possibilities. Art is about taking in the world around us and within us, the good, the bad, and the ugly, processing what it all means and exploring all possibilities of what can come from it. Creation is a messy endeavor, internally and externally.

Art education is: finding beauty in that mess.

Once the mess is made, the walls are down, and the minds are open, there is nothing left to do but find ways to fit it all together. Learning how to create is a process and there will be triumphs and failures. The process of creating will challenge us and frustrate us and inspire us. Art education is about showing young artists how to find joy in every step of the process.

Art education is: helping students find their voice.

Art is about expression. That goes without saying, yet what is often unknown is how accessible expression truly is. Students at all ages are learning how to communicate with the world around them. Art education shows students all the different possibilities of how that can be done.

Art education is: learning how to use our voice.

What we put out into the world has power. The work that we create, and experience can change the way that we feel and think about ourselves and the world around us. Children and young artists are figuring out and telling us what is important to them in everything that they make. Art education is showing our students that their voices have power.

Art education is: students bringing those voices together.

Collaboration is bringing together communities to create a shared experience is a work of art in itself. Creating an experience that brings our voices together, brings our community together. Giving people an opportunity to work together for a common goal, a piece of art that will produce experiences beyond the creation- creates a sense of purpose, community, and self for young artists.

Art education is: leading by example.

The world of arts, and the world in general is ever changing. The only way we can truly show young artists many creative ways of understanding and navigating it is through experience. It is very challenging to convince others how important the arts are, and show them the impact it can have, if you do not live that belief. Showing young artists how we are using art to express ourselves, and navigate our worlds, gives them permission and encouragement to do so themselves. Art education is showing young artists that they have resources and support in their journey.

Art education is: an inspiring and motivating environment.

As humans we are inspired by the world around us, Consciously and subconsciously. Creating an artistic environment is creating a space that will motivate young artists to think deeply, ask questions, and explore all possibilities. Art education is creating a space where young artists feel limitless in their creativity and their voice.

Art education is: risking being challenged.

There are few things scarier to most young artists, children, and people than being vulnerable. Using your voice and your creativity, to put yourself in the world, puts you in the position to be judged, challenged, and even ridiculed at times. It also gives you the opportunity to be seen, validated, appreciated, and praised. Everytime we put something out into the world we risk facing all the ways others may react to it. Art education is teaching our young artists about this risk, giving them the tools to face it, and showing them they have always had the power to handle it.

Art education is: learning how to look and listen.

Art is a response, an expression, and an observation. Learning how to truly look and listen is a large part of learning what we want to create- to be seen and heard. Learning how to understand the images, colors, sounds, and all other things we experience, helps inform the kinds of experiences that we want to create ourselves. Art education is guiding our young artists through how to interpret, understand, and process the world around us.

Art education is: finding ways to improve our world.

As it's been said a few times throughout this list- artwork is inspired and informed by the world around us. It is a response to what we are experiencing, and many times, an expression of the worlds that we can imagine for ourselves and our communities. Art and collaboration has the power to bring all kinds of people together to create, experience, and/or share an experience with the world. Art education is about showing our young artists that not only do their voices have power, but that this power could have an impact on how we as a community and world act, and they can use that impact to make the world better.

¹ "US of Clutter"-Student made, Ny, 2016