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2019

Art Education Feedback

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SOURCE Citation

Wightman, Don, "Art Education Feedback" (2019). *Reflective Teaching*. 4.
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SECOND SEMESTER

I am very pleased with the artwork that was produced during the first semester and I was particularly happy with the working rapport in the studio. I received from you, work that is comparable to the best found in other painting and drawing courses.

An observation about a fundamental weakness in most of the work, must be stated and the deficiency corrected during the second semester. To this end I shall present a more formal structure with specific requirements for credit.

It is essential for students of art to acknowledge the relationship between conceptual objectives and visual manifestations in the plastic arts, and to unify these in their own work. With the exception of a few students, this relationship was missing in your last semester's work. Without it, an art object is produced but not a work of art. When this is realized, it will become obvious that, to have poignancy and integrity, art must be a child of its time. This necessity does not negate universal truths nor does it render former expression obsolete. It does, however, illuminate new perspectives and establish contemporary relevance.

The distinction must be understood and an attempt made to perform a creative act rather than a re-creative act, before a personal statement can be made. This will require an inventiveness and a knowledge of former modes of expression and contemporary ones. I do not believe it is a simple task, for I know of nothing to do with the human psyche that is. I believe that to be in art at all is a statement of intent. An intention to try to understand the means by which mankind has and will express itself creatively and to add quality not quantity to that creative expression.

To enable us to focus on this crucial aspect of creativity I find it necessary to present you with restrictive parameters based on specific assignment requirements. For the remainder of the semester, emphasis will be placed on conceptual objectives and how these are to be unified with your visual manifestations.

The attached sheet presents a general outline. Credit will be based on adherence to the brief, the comprehension of it, and the quality of the finished artwork resulting from it.