



Contiguity- A Sharing of Stories

The Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania is proud to showcase Tasmanian teachers.

Contiguity - A Sharing of Stories was borne out of the PhD research of Sarah Brooke, a Devonport High School Art Teacher who is investigating what was and is happening for visual art education in primary school classrooms.

Working alongside her, Nina Eberhardt, Kindergarten Teacher at Ulverstone Primary, Kirsty Holmberg from Mole Creek Primary and Renee Franks from Spreyton Primary, chronicled their involvement in collaborative art making and the inclusion of visual arts in the curriculum in their respective classrooms.

Sarah Brooke said that through the exhibition she hopes to inspire other teachers to learn through collaborative art making and to then let their students do the same by exploring and understanding their world through making in the visual arts.

"Together, through making artwork in response to our own visual arts teaching experiences and our understandings of the visual arts we were reflecting, storytelling and exploring our continually developing understanding of visual arts education in our own classrooms and teaching practice," she said.

One of the participating teachers, Nina Eberhardt, said that her involvement led her to become more reflective of how, as a teacher, she provides opportunities and approaches for the children and is more aware of feelings the children may be having.

"My passion is for providing students with opportunities to express themselves creatively in a classroom environment where the process of art making is the focus, rather than the finished product."

"As well as the chance for professional conversation and reflection, I enjoyed the opportunity to play and explore with materials and discover and practise new skills without expectation, which reinforced why it is so important to allow art in the classroom to be child led and process driven," she said. "I think that this is evident in the artwork my Kinder children created.

"Students saying 'I made an ocean colour' or 'look at this colour I made after I put the sponge in the water' and 'it's like a grape colour, I used some red, blue and white' highlight the joy, pride, learning and creativity manifested during their making. As well as their obvious love of colour mixing!"

The four teachers became a professional community of practice. "Naturally occurring conversations around visual arts education, content and teaching strategies were held, helping to develop our understandings of visual arts education.

"This exhibition demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of teachers coming together in a community of practice to learn in a collaborative space or place through the sharing of experience and knowledge," she said.



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