

Martha Oquist
SCED 550
Art Autobiography

Recall:

When I think back to my earliest memories pertaining to art, there's always one that stands out above the rest. My grandmother was a teacher, and art was something she loved to do with us kids on weekends. When I was four years old, she taught me how to make dolls using holly hock flowers. Once we created the doll, we used as many materials as we could find to create accessories, and houses. From then on, I truly understood the possibilities that could come from art, and more importantly, that you could create art using anything. Moving into my school years, art was something that I loved getting to do, and it proved to create a lasting impression on certain assignments that I still remember to this day. Having to create a calendar for Mother's day in third grade, by ripping paper to create a scene for each month. Or dressing up as a historical figure and presenting a mini play on their life in fourth grade. Even, creating a travel brochure, using the parts of the cell as my destination locations in eight grade science. All of these examples show how art in my schooling helped to shape me as learner, and provide me with meaningful lessons that in turn helped me to develop a deeper understand academically.

Once I moved onto higher education, art wasn't as present in my daily school routine. So I discovered ways to incorporate it within my personal life. I found that using art as an outlet, and stress relief activity helped to keep me balance in my everyday life. However, whenever given the chance, I used art during projects, presentations, or online discussions. Using art whenever I, allowed me to invest in the topic, and walk away with a wider knowledge base than if I were to just simply type a paper, or sit and discuss.

Now being a teacher, especially a Kindergarten teacher, I find art has become a daily part of classroom routine. Any time I can allow my students to get creative and apply their own impressions onto a project, I find that not only do they benefit from it, but I do as their teacher as well. I still find ways to use art in my personal life. Those lessons from undergrad I learned about how much art can provide me with an outlet, is something I never want to lose as my life continues to adapt and grow.

Reflect:

When looking back at my art experiences, there is one alarming thing that stands out to me the most. All of things that allowed me to enjoy art, and feel successful, or helped me to decompress, were activities that allowed me to choose what type of art I presented. I was able to create my own path, use my own experiences, and use my own critical thinking skills. I can't remember assignments where I was told exactly what to do or how to do them. I can't recall a single time where I wasn't allowed to put my own

“spin” on a project that made a lasting impression or provided a deeper understanding of the topic at hand. In hindsight, I remember the art experiences that were personal to me. They allowed me to be creative through my learning experiences, and provided a different avenue or perspective on a topic. I don’t know if I would consider myself to be successful in art in the sense of being an artist, or performer. I would consider my experiences to be successful in the sense that they allowed me to use art in a way that benefited my growth as a learner and a person.

Connect:

Art to me is using materials, personal experiences, creativity, and emotion to represent something or anything. Whether it be a sculpture, painting, play, dance, skit, model, design, or craft, art is an expression. My past learning experiences with art haven’t all been positive, but there were enough positive lasting impressions to provide me with a desire to use and incorporate art within my life and my classroom. I was able to see the benefit first hand, of incorporating art with learning experiences to help students find meaning and a deeper understanding of subjects. My past learning experiences also shed light on how art can be used as an outlet in whatever way you’re wanting or needing. My only hope is that I can use those positive experiences from my past, and present them in a way that my students are able to walk away with the same meaningful experiences.