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Motivation:

I'm interested in the interaction and communication between pupils, colleagues and myself in an environment and a culture which I'm not accustomed to.

"Who's Afraid Of Red Yellow And Blue", the title which Barnett Newman gave to a group of paintings, should be the motto for my project.

Concept:

I would like to realize a wallpainting on a wall of 6-10 meters length in interaction and together with two groups of pupils (4-6 children). The theme would be "Art and City - Art and Architecture".

The wallpainting should be divided in 10 or 15 segments so that each group and myself can work on different segments. I'll work with coloured geometrical pentagonal shapes in different sizes - the children are free to realize their own ideas of city and architecture or to react on on my shapes and colours.

Urban structures and architecture base on an idea, on a ground-plan, which I want to make visible through a coloured linear wooden construction in front of the painting. The coloured lines build a lattice and correspond with the painting and the concept - different layers and levels will develop from the interaction between the children and myself.

In preparation for the wallpainting we will do sketches on paper and talk about the different possibilities of composing them together to one large painting.

Two or three children should photograph the working process and its changes (in colour and black and white). The prints should be part of the interaction and our discussions. Later, in the exhibition, the prints should lead through the building to the wall painting as a line on the ground or on a wall.

I think that a co-operation on this project could be interesting for pupils from 12 - 15 years.

First I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jockel Heenes, I'm 52 years old and I live and work in Munich, Germany.

I have to apologize for not speaking english very well. I only had two years of english in school. But I hope that this will not be a problem, because we will not mainly talk but do an artpiece together. We need good vibrations and good feelings.

Art simply is another kind of language.

I work as an artist for more than 30 years. My work has slowly developed from leaden grey sculptures, years ago, to colored wooden sculptures and colored paintings now. Later I can show you some examples in my catalogues, which I have with me.

I would like to realize a wallpainting on a wall of 6 to 10 meters in length together with two groups of students (4-6 children).

The wallpainting should be divided in 7 segments so that each group and myself can work on different segments. I'll work with colored geometrical pentagonal shapes in different sizes - the children are free to relize their own ideas of city and architecture or to react to my shapes and colors.

In preparation for the wallpainting we'll do scetches on paper and talk about the different possibilities of composing them together to one large painting.

I' ll show you a scetch now, that I made as a first idea for the wallpiece that we'll make together.

My favorite geometrical form, as you can see, is the pentagon, a figure with five angles. Here you can see organized and chaotic structures. First, the image you see only presents abstract information and the living energy of the single colors.

If you use both, your heart and your brains, watching the forms for a while, you can enter the color space. Or you can jump from one color space to another, like jumping up a flight of stairs. You can also think of music: the darker colors presenting the lower notes and the lighter colors presenting the higher notes on the musical scale. Every field of colors will give you a different feeling, because of the difference in intensity of the colors. (the impressions)

One of the fields is darker, the other one is lighter and the one in the middle is softer. It will give you the impression of space. The darker field looks like further away from the window, the lighter field looks like very close to the window and the field of softer colors seems to be a

window itself.

My work is always connected to architecture. Therefore I would like you (the students) to think of the city - of architecture - when you do your sketches.

Your part is to work with the 4 empty spaces. The second part of our/your work is to construct some geometrical sculptures made of wooden bars. I think of colored cubes and rectangular bodies. Another idea will be a line of wooden bars hanging from the ceiling, painted in different colors (in connection with the wall painting). We can make the wooden sculptures in different sizes and see how they correspond to the painting on the wall.

Two or three students should photograph the working process and its changes (in color and black and white). The photographs should be a part of the interaction and our discussions. The photographed details and fragments can present interesting examples which are connected with our whole work. A single photograph can be an abstract picture of its own. Later, in the exhibition, the photographs should lead through the building to the wallpainting as a line on the ground or on a wall.

"WHO'S AFRAID OF RED, YELLOW AND BLUE" will be the title of our work. I borrowed this title from a series of paintings made in the sixties by Barnett Newman, a famous american abstract artist.

I can show you some photocopies of "WHO'S AFRAID OF RED, YELLOW AND BLUE", N° IV, taken from two different catalogues. The medium of reproduction gives always its own interpretation (and you will have yours).

If you don't understand my english or some words don't be afraid to ask me to explain my meaning again.

J.H., April 1999