

Journal of Art for Life

Volume 5 | Issue 1

Article 1

4-25-2014

Editorial

Tom Anderson

Florida State University, tanderson@fsu.edu

The Journal of Art for Life is produced by the Florida State University Department of Art Education with support from FSU Libraries. For more information contact tanderson@fsu.edu.

This is the first issue of The Journal of Art for Life to be published as strictly an on-line publication. While there is something to be said for hard copy (the smell of fresh printers' ink, the texture of paper, the turning of the page), there's also much to be said for digital communications (the fact that volumes and issues can be flexible in length, the instantaneous publication of a finished paper, the potentially vast audience of Internet readers, and the price, not to mention the trees we are saving, which are thus available for all to hug). Inherent, too, in digital publications is the potential for creative use of the cyber-space strategies such as hyperlinks to video and other resources not conducive to hard copy. We are particularly looking forward in the future to exploring those creative digital spaces. As with all previous issues, this issue of JAfL is available online, free and open access through the support of Florida State University Library's Diginole System). Also contact us by email if you want a hard copy of this issue or previous issues, which we have in limited numbers. Starting with this volume of JAfL and all succeeding issues, we will be available only online through Diginole at <http://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/jafl/>.

The lead article in volume 5(1), by Jeffrey L. Broome, entitled "The Case for Humanistic Curriculum: A Discussion of Curriculum Theory Applied to Art Education," is an appeal for art educators to revisit the venerable humanistic tradition in art education for its own sake and for the sake of social justice within and through teaching and learning in art. Our second contribution, by Courtney Lee Weida and Jennifer Marsh, entitled "Soft Sustainable Media: Representing Ecology and Re-envisioning Craft with the International Fiber Collaborative," focuses on environmental and social activism connecting handcrafts, digital media, and community arts. The third article, entitled "Mandalas and Wellness Wheels with Persons with Severe Mental Illness," by Maryellen McAleve, looks at eight dimensions of wellness (rather than focusing on a deficit model) using mandalas and wellness wheels as exemplars of strategies to achieve recovery and wellness. In the next article, Laura Rachel Fattal, in a piece called "Alterations: The Work of Altered Book artist Miriam Schaer," explores Schaer's feminist work with a special focus on childless women, with implications for art education. Finally, David A. Gall examines fragment(ation), collage as a vehicle, and potential wholeness beyond the dualisms of postmodernism's challenge to modernism's so-called artistic purity, with implications for art pedagogy that reflect cultural difference through transcultural similarities, in his entry entitled "Fragments of What? Postmodernism, Hybridity, and Collage."

Bringing this issue to fruition I want to thank, once again, Florida State University, the FSU University Library and Micah Vandergrift, The College of Visual Arts Theatre and Dance and Dean Peter Weishar, as well as to The Department of Art Education and Chair David Gussak for their support. Also I want to acknowledge and thank my two editorial assistants for this issue, Marisa Agama, and succeeding her, Jackie Juriasti, both of whom have been invaluable in putting this issue together.

As always we invite your submissions on any aspect of art for life, whether that be in the realm of art education, art therapy or arts administration. We will consider philosophical pieces; commentaries; explorations of issues; arts-based, qualitative, and quantitative research; and reviews of existing texts, videos, online publications, and other art-for-life oriented phenomena. If you have questions please contact me at tanderson@fsu.edu. I hope you find this issue of the Journal of Art for Life to be stimulating and useful for your life in art education, art therapy, and/or arts administration.