

The way art students understand Art

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The study presented in this poster had two main goals: 1) exploratory assessment of the way students from the Faculty of High-Arts of the University of Porto understand Art; and 2) assessment of the adequacy of transforming a semi-structured art understanding interview originally employed as a individual interview (Parsons, 1987) into a collective interview. The collected data show agreement with Parsons (1987) developmental theory of art understanding, specifically the prevalence of formal dimensions in aesthetic appreciation by a specialised group (art students), and the viability of using an individual interview script as a collective interview. There are two main conclusions: a) the ideas we use as tools for art understanding seem to be the more superficial form of what we can call psychological structures of art understanding, and b) oriented discussions of works of art can have a developmental impact, particularly in the refinement of art understanding as shown in Housen (1983; 2000) and Rossi (2003).

Czech adolescents in open-ended sentences (authenticity, needs and wishes)

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In the present study we want to continue exploring adolescents' ways of thinking about themselves and understanding their needs related to self in the following aspects: need for self-expression, being oneself, need for authenticity, moral beliefs etc.

We addressed elementary and secondary school students ($N=523$, age range 14-20, mean= 17.02 Std. Dev.=1.94). To examine students' opinions we used open-ended sentences. For the analysis of our data we used the qualitative approach (we identified categories and tried to find some differences through the cohorts and sexes). Some preliminary findings show to us that good relationships wishes are most frequently expressed by girls (this trend is more evident in middle adolescence). Girls represent a higher percentage than boys in the categories called need for long-term achievement and hedonistic needs. The adolescents (girls and boys) perceive the importance of self-satisfaction and need for self-expression and prefer situations in which they are presented with a choice and have the opportunity to express themselves freely.

Our goal was mainly explorative and heuristic, we focused on the uncovering of the connections and deeper relationships within this topic.