Drawing as an anti-ableist pedagogy

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What is ableism?

- Beliefs, processes and practices that project a perfect

species-typical human.

- Disability is 'cast as a diminished state of being human'

- A belief that disability is inherently negative

- Disability should be improved, cured or eliminated

Fiona Kumari Campbell (2009) *Contours of Ableism* palgrave/macmillan.

Ableism – Definitions and Examples in Art Education

- Vision and ocularnormativity: we

- prioritise seeing (we cannot imagine art education without sight)

- Coordination: an assumed ability to develop fine and gross motor skills (and that these will improve incrementally with practice)

- Becoming independent: an assumption that we all move to individual unsupported practice

- Concentration on one task for extended periods

Drawing as anti-ableist practice?

"There are two principal misconceptions about drawing. The first is that there is a single form of 'good drawing, a way of making drawings that is somehow basic and 'common sensical' (naturalistic representation), against which those drawings taking other forms are considered deviant. The second is that all drawing in the past conformed to the rules of 'good drawing', deviant drawing being exclusive to our own century"

Craig-Martin (1995:9)

Drawing as anti-ableist practice?

"spontaneity, creative speculation, experimentation, directness, simplicity,

abbreviation, expressiveness, immediacy, personal vision, technical diversity,

modesty of means, rawness, fragmentation, discontinuity,

unfinishedness, open-endedness…"

Craig-Martin (1995:9)

Value judgements: antagonistic adjectives

- fine (refined, elegant) and coarse (heavy, fat, crude, brutal)
- light (subtle,lively, sharp, adroit) and heavy (slow thick, blunt, laborious, clumsy)
- free and forced
- broad and narrow
- brilliant (intelligent) and dull (obscure, grey, mediocre)

(Pierre Bourdieu, 1984:468)

We are going to explore a network of oppositions:

Working in the Google docs:

Group 1: *fine (refined, elegant) and coarse*
(heavy, fat, crude, brutal)
Group 2: *light (subtle,lively, sharp, adroit)*
and heavy (slow thick, blunt, laborious, clumsy)
Group 3: *free and forced*
Group 4: *broad and narrow*
Group 5: *brilliant (intelligent) and dull*
(obscure, grey, mediocre)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BOqkHVh-KAXOkJoQK-gy3aXK_nRnMdLIvxQOgwGjKzc/edit

Any Questions?

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