NICK NELSON OF ARCADIA EDUCATION REFLECTS ON TWENTY YEARS SPENT ENDEAVOURING TO INSPIRE YOUNG MINDS

In teaching Art History, much depends upon an individual’s subjectivity in the appreciation of aesthetics. It largely consists of a series of opinions and judgements, so having a ‘voice’ as a teenager is key – the ‘teacher monologue’ (aka ‘chalk and talk’) is no longer appropriate in today’s rapidly advancing and multi-cultural environment.

While History of Art remains my specialism, it is a subject that is inherently inter-disciplinary. One commentator, Mark Roskill, said: “works of art are part of the society from which they spring, and one cannot learn about one without learning about the other”. I agree wholeheartedly. Manners are important to us, and our collective aim is to shape the whole child and foster the chief tenets of trust, respect, fairness and forgiveness in our charges. These, I feel, are the building blocks for life, even in today’s rapidly advancing and multi-cultural environment.

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