

**NATIONAL REPORT ON ELEARNING IN GERMANY
BILDUNGSWERK VER.DI**

According to the German teachers involved in the ArtNet – Project the use of elearning for the teaching of Art in Germany is very little. This is mainly due to the fact that elearning is not included in the guidelines given for the teaching of Arts in Lower Saxony by the Ministry of Education and the Arts. The guidelines are binding for the teachers but can be a little varied. The guidelines will become even more important as Germany will soon have a national A-level examination board and students are expected to have studied the same topics of Art. Nevertheless pupils are expected to learn how to use the internet (for research purposes) from grade 6 = 12 years old onwards.

The teachers consider Elearning as one possibility of a didactic approach, as helpful to support the work of students at home and/or as a supplement to the teaching of Art in school. Especially for curious students who want to learn and know more. Generally a well trained teacher is regarded as indispensable as it is always better to have a good teacher than to study with a computer. One very important aspect of art is to address the senses, to understand the art process as something sensual. This can never be achieved by the usage of a PC.

Teachers think that the objective of art teachers should always be the freedom of the creative process whereas elearning is perceived as the opposite = lack of freedom. The lack of freedom can already start with the booking of the PC room in the schools well in advanced and carries on with technical problems. Due to their experience this leads to the fact that a reliable teaching is often impossible. This was especially the case with Joerg Schuelers „Notebook class“, in which students were supposed to do research and to work on layouts.

The objective of Elearning is basically to learn something by studying on one's own but a big disadvantage is that signs of quality are missing as everybody can publish on the web. Users

can only rely on their own judgement about products being good or bad which obviously is difficult as they are usually not experts in the desired topic.

Renate Schmidt quotes „The meaning of the medium is the message“ (Marshall McLuhan). She thinks the hardware is the message and not the information provided. She observed that her students are printing a vast amount of information when doing research but are actually not reading it through.

Through the ArtNet project and through the former project „MultimediART“ the teachers have been animated to use the computer within their work of teaching art. PC's are being used for research on art topics. The work on elearning product evaluation forms lead to the usage of some useful programmes found (e.g. theory of colour). Marlies Michaelis is currently working with grade 8 = 14 years old on the topic of moving images. She is also including the elearning course „Moving images“ developed by Vicky Betsou (Athens School of Fine Arts) within the ArtNet project.