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Great Moment in Art Education History

Florence Cane (1882-1952)

Florence Cane was one of the best known artist educators of the Progressive School Movement. She worked with her sister Margaret Naumberg at the Walden School as the Director of Art. She published her only book, *The Artist in Each of Us* in 1951. Cane's teaching practices were influenced by her Jungian psychoanalysis findings that placed the students' needs and emotions as the most important to their art making. Cane believed that every child harnesses the power to create and that the school environment should pull the power to create out of every child. Her teaching practices for young students involved the child visualizing ideas or memories as a way to produce subject matter or inspiration. Cane would encourage students to work upside down, paint with their opposite hand, and for them to make their own creative decisions.

When students grew into adolescents, Florence Cane believed that teachers should change their art classrooms into an artist studio environment. Cane recognized that students tended to lose their interests in making art as they got older, but that with teacher support, the child could learn to work as an artist. In Cane's teaching, older students were to be given the technical material instruction they needed, but be left to create independently. Time, space, quality art materials, and help when needed would allow students to change their working habits from impulsions to thoughtful expressions.

References

Stankiewicz, M. A. (2001). *Roots of Art Education Practice*. Worcester, MS : Davis Publications.