Artistic creativity and mental handicap

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Abstract

Mentally handicapped persons are capable of art, as shown in this paper.

Keywords
Art; Painting; Mental handicap; Psychic handicap; Disabilities

Note

The use of photographies of the various artists/friends follows the recommendations of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data. Whenever a person is identifiable, informed consent of the parents or other legal representatives has been obtained. Otherwise, faces have been blurred, or a black rectangle added, to prevent identification.

Aim

The following is an insight into a thirty year experience with mentally handicapped persons and/or persons with a psychiatric condition. We have organized painting workshops with children from a Medico-Educational Institute and with adults living in a Sheltered Employment Centre for Workers with Disabilities. Each week, we spend one hour together with the children, and one hour with adults, painting in a silent contemplation with a background of classical music, in warm friendship, and deep concentration. We use gouache on paper.
Mentally handicapped persons are capable of art, as shown with paintings from: Nelly, Stéphane, Joël, Roger, Marie-France, Laurent, Emmanuel, Tin, Jean Loup (top left to bottom right)

... and many others

Céline

Timothy

Sébastien
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Bernard

Christian was blind
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Cédric

Claude

Cédric

Claude
Clarisse

Patricia

Timothy

Iole

Alexis

Claude

Hugo (another "Hugo")
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... the wall
References


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