

***Art Greens* –Ecology Art Education e-Conversations:
A Professional Development Resource**

June Julian, Ed.D.

Improving University Teaching

33rd International Conference

29 Jul 2008 -- 1 Aug 2008

University of Strathclyde

Glasgow, Scotland.

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Abstract

Ecology Art as a genre addresses sensitivity to our natural world and the interdependence of all living things, Over the past several decades Ecology artists have developed a distinguished tradition including a variety of international projects. In recent times, Eco Artists have also been exploring Internet technologies, and are being joined by art teachers of all grade levels to integrate ecology concepts into their standard instructional practice.

In the *Art Greens - Ecology Art Education e-Conversations Blog* project, Art Education graduate students present ways to utilize free Web applications such as *Google Earth*, *SketchUp* and Blogs for teachers to integrate ecology topics and ecology art appreciation into the Art classroom. It is full of useful instructional materials and ideas to help green the classroom at all levels, from Eco-Art lesson plans, to student research and spaces that invite participation. These university students found that incorporating ecology issues into an existing curriculum can be seamless and effective in extending student learning. Although green is a secondary color on the Color Wheel, it signifies an awareness that is of primary importance.

***Art Greens –Ecology Art Education e-Conversations:
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As students, we may have learned that mixing all of the colored pigments on the color wheel makes grey, and that combining all of the colored light in the visible spectrum creates white. Now, as educators, we can combine our work for ecological awareness, to create a lovely metaphorical shade of green.

I teach in the Graduate Art Education Department at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. As the Coordinator of the Educational Media Concentration, I help to prepare pre-service and veteran teachers to use, plan, and manage technology in the K-12 art classroom.

Ecology Art as a genre addresses sensitivity to our natural world and the interdependence of all living things, Over the past several decades Ecology artists have developed a distinguished tradition to include a variety of international projects. In recent times, Eco Artists are also exploring Internet technologies, and are being joined by educators at all grade levels to integrate ecology concepts into their standard instructional practice.

As a result of the recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, environmental sensitivity has reemerged as a topic of public awareness and debate in diverse arenas from Washington to Hollywood. UNESCO has designated 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth. How might teachers in higher education join in the conversation and increase understandings of this topic?

Art Greens - Eco-Art eConversations is a professional development Blog that was developed by Art Education graduate students in my online course, Educational Media B: Planning & Management, at the University of the Arts. It is full of wonderful instructional materials and ideas to help green the classroom at all levels, from Eco-Art lesson plans using *Google Earth* and *SketchUp*, to student research and spaces that invite participation. The objective was to encourage teachers to think of ways to adapt these basic ideas to their particular teaching situation.

Art Education Graduate students created multiple key components on the Blog site:

- Introduction to the Ecology Art Curriculum
An ecology art curriculum employs art as a means for studying and promoting respect for the relationship and interaction of all living things.
- Curriculum Philosophy and Objectives
- History of Ecology Art
Early environmental artists manipulated the natural environment for their artistic purpose and often had negative impact on their surroundings.
The works of more enlightened ecology artists celebrate the interdependence of all living things in their work.
- Ecology Hall of Fame List In-Progress
John Muir
Rachel Carson
Terry Tempest Williams
Aldo Leopold
- Lesson Plans for Elementary, Middle and High School
Integration of *Google Earth* and *SketchUp*, easily adaptable to all levels of instruction and ecology theme. Based on National Art Education Content & Technology Standards
- Links
List of hyperlinks that support lesson plans and extend the ecology art curriculum to all levels.
- What's New?
The project's collaborative space.

Graduate Art Education students were directed to design lesson plans for the Blog project that utilized *Google Earth* and *SketchUp* to reinforce learning about ecology issues through art. With *Google Earth*, it is possible to fly over and zoom in on specific places of current environmental concern such as the Myanmar cyclone area, the deforestation of Tibet, or your local neighborhood. Site specific environmental art works such as Robert Smithson's *Spiral Getty* may be located and discussed. *SketchUp* is a free, user friendly 3D modeling program that can be effectively used to design buildings to be displayed in *Google Earth*.

High School Lesson Plan Examples

Public Service Announcement –students engage in an informed environmental debate through research on environmental issues in their community, and by producing a public service announcement on their topic.

Artcology in the Urban Environment –students research and write reflections on the political and ecological factors relating to vacant lot use in their urban environment, arts-based revitalization efforts, and issues of sustainability. *SketchUp* is used to create a 3D rendering of the new lot design.

Organic Collaged Materials - students utilize planetary travel opportunities afforded by *Google Earth* to geographically locate countries and cultures and to learn about their artmaking traditions.

Middle School Lesson Plan Examples

Exploring Naturalist Art and Ecology – students are introduced to nature artists and observational drawing in the field. *Google Earth* is used as a visualization tool to demonstrate how the local community is embedded in the larger whole and to generate discussion on the interdependence of both.

Bottle Art - Wind Chimes made from Plastic Bottles - students use this simple art project to learn about wind power as an alternative energy source and to look at wind farm locations using *Google Earth*.

Eco-Walks – students research artists who utilize walking in their art, such as Richard Long and Andy Goldsworthy, they discuss ecotourism, and they plan an Eco Walk path using *Google Earth* and *SketchUp*.

Elementary School Lesson Plan Examples

Conservation Through the Arts - students learn about endangered species by designing U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Conservation stamps, using *Google Earth* to study the animal habitats.

Nature is Art - students travel with *Google Earth* to parts of the world where Ecology Artists have created work, for lessons in geography and artmaking with natural materials.

Water Cycle Collage with Recyclable materials - students make connections with natural science as they create collages on the stages of the water cycle.

What's New? Examples

12 week high school ecology art curriculum on the theme of Art, Ecology and Our Community. A development of the High School *Public Service Announcement* plan, there are lessons in Graphic Design, found object sculpture, photography, drawing and film.

Backyard Habitats Project. Elementary school students designed a habitat for native birds, animals and butterflies. This award-winning project was featured on the *Backyard Habitats* web site and shown on the *Discovery Channel!*

Through our semester long *Art Greens* Blog project, graduate students discovered that integrating ecology issues into an existing art curriculum can be seamless and can be effective in extending student learning at all levels. Although green is a secondary color on the Color Wheel, it signifies an awareness that is of primary importance.

Selected Screen Shots

<http://ecology-artelecture.blogspot.com/>

Eco-Art eConversations Main Page

SEARCH BLOG FLAG BLOG Next Blog - Create Blog | Sign In

Eco-Art eLecture

A Professional Development Resource
created by Educational Media Online Students
The Department of Art Education
The University of the Arts

Introduction to the Curriculum

An ecological art curriculum employs art as a means for studying and promoting respect for the relationship and interaction of all living things. It should be exciting, hands on, interdisciplinary, and should engage students through various methods, such as teamwork, research, integration of technology, and exploration of ecological issues in the students' community. The goal of an eco art education curriculum should be to inform and enable students to utilize art and technology as a means of exploration, expression, and communication, in order to understand and assume their role within their community and the environment.

Ecology Hall of Fame, Google Earth & SketchUp Lesson Plans, Personal Introductions

- Ecology Hall of Fame (8)
- Elementary Lesson (3)
- High School Lesson (3)
- Middle School Lesson (3)
- Personal Introductions (9)

Monday, April 30, 2007

Ecology Hall of Fame: John Muir

by Kate Kaliner

When we try to pick out

History of Ecology Art Education

Curriculum Philosophy

Eco-Art Education Curriculum Philosophy

An ecological art curriculum employs art as a means for studying and promoting respect for the relationship and interaction of all living things. It should be exciting, hands on, interdisciplinary, and should engage students through various methods, such as teamwork, research, integration of technology, and exploration of ecological issues in the students' community. The goal of an eco art education curriculum should be to inform and enable students to utilize art and technology as a means of exploration, expression, and communication, in order to understand and assume their role within their community and the environment.

Curriculum Objectives

Objectives of Eco-Art

- ◆ Create conceptually informed aesthetic experience of complex systems
- ◆ Facilitate a supplementary response through discourse with citizens
- ◆ Encourage interdisciplinary expert participation and knowledge
- ◆ Balance the technical with the biological and ecological
- ◆ Express value, with the intention of transformation
- ◆ Address damages to diversity and dynamics of ecosystems
- ◆ Advocate compassionately for natural and human communities

National Education Standards for Technology

1. Basic operations and concepts

- Students demonstrate a sound understanding of the nature and operation of technology systems.
- Students are proficient in the use of technology.

2. Social, ethical, and human issues

- Students practice responsible use of technology systems, information, and software.
- Students develop positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.

3. Technology productivity tools

- Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.
- Students use productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works.

4. Technology communications tools

- Students use a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences.

5. Technology research tools

- Students use technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.
- Students use technology tools to process data and report results.
- Students evaluate and select new information resources and technological innovations based on the appropriateness for specific tasks.

6. Technology problem-solving and decision-making tools

- Students use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions.
- Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems in the real world.

History of Ecology Art Education

Ecology Hall of Fame, Google Earth & SketchUp Lesson Plans, Personal Introductions

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- Middle School Lesson (3)
- Personal Introductions (9)

Monday, April 30, 2007

Ecology Hall of Fame: John Muir



by Kate Kaliner

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.

-- My First Summer in the Sierra (John Muir, 1911)

John Muir was born in Dunbar Scotland on April 21st, 1838, before he and his family immigrated to the United States in 1849, where he became one of the earliest proponents for the preservation of our country's wilderness. Muir saw man's role as playing a part of the larger whole of the natural world, not at its' center, and he saw nature as a spiritual resource. John Muir traveled across the world and the United States, including a thousand-mile walk from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. His writings on his adventures and philosophy have been published in 300 articles and 10 books, and inspire readers even today.

History of Ecology Art Education



Lynne Hull, Reservoir Tree for roosting and nesting by colony nesting water birds (greenmuseum.org, 2007)



Links

and the government, and called for a change in the way humankind viewed the natural world. Looking into what she did and how strong of a writer she was in just astonishing. The one important thing I admired from her is that she is a woman who was single minded in her purpose. She worked hard to get what she wanted and didn't care if she got in trouble. She wanted to warn people of all the chemicals and toxins that were surrounding them. She stopped at nothing and that's the type of inspiration and influence I want to give when I become a teacher.

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2. Weiss, D.(2002). Rachel Carson. Retrieved May 1, 2007 from <http://www.ecotopia.org/ehof/carson/>
3. Carson, Rachel. (1951) The sea around us. New York, Oxford University Press.

Posted by Educational Media B Online - Spring 2007 at 4:49 PM 0 comments

Labels: Ecology Hall of Fame

Ecology Hall of Fame: Terry Tempest Williams

By Christina Roberts

Terry Tempest Williams, born in 1955, is an American writer and environmentalist who focus is on the deserts of the American West. Besides being in the Ecology Hall of Fame, she is an accomplished author of several books (*Pieces of White Shell, An Unspoken Hunger, Leap, Red: Passion and Patience in the Desert, and The Open Space of Democracy*). Williams writings, besides personal and educational, are reflective of current issues in our environment. Her passion to protect the desert and its wildlife is transcended to people who don't necessarily think about the environment. Her article in *Sports*

Links

- ◆ [A World Community of Old Trees](#)
- ◆ [ArtLex Art Dictionary](#)
- ◆ [BlinkList](#)
- ◆ [Circle of Life Foundation](#)
- ◆ [Eco-Art Creative Metal Recycling](#)
- ◆ [Eco-Art statement](#)
- ◆ [Ecological Art TV](#)
- ◆ [Ecology Center](#)
- ◆ [ECOLOGY.ORG](#)
- ◆ [Ecopolitan.com](#)
- ◆ [Education 4 Conservation](#)
- ◆ [Edutopia](#)
- ◆ [EE-Link ~ Environmental Education on the Internet](#)
- ◆ [enchantedlearning.com - The Water Cycle](#)
- ◆ [Exhibit GLEF Learning Interchange](#)
- ◆ [GHOSTNETS - Ecological art and activism - Artist Aviva Rahmani](#)
- ◆ [Go Green Initiative](#)
- ◆ [Great Green Goods](#)
- ◆ [Greater Ithaca Art Trail](#)
- ◆ [greenmuseum.org](#)
- ◆ [ide@s](#)
- ◆ [National Gallery of Art Classroom](#)

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