

Organizing Chaos

Lugar Específico - entre Arte e Educação

Cultural Mediation | Drawing

N° of pax 5-20

indoors

2 hour

Purpose

FIND THE PURPOSE OF LIFE AND ITS VALUES:

- self knowledge
- group work
- art expression

Materials

- 1 flipchart paper/group
- colors (crayons, markers, pastel, pencils, wax, etc.)
- black markers
- projector or big screen with computer **or** prints of the painting: A3/each 2 people

Preparation

- Research the artwork of Joaquín Torres-García on this link : http://bitly.ws/sh9E
- Prepare the room so you can either project the artwork on the wall or prepare printed images for participants. Define which artworks of the artist you will show and prepare a slideshow.

Intro

We can be inspired by artists or artisans, by their creative process or their creations. Enjoying and interpreting artwork can allow us to create and organize the world around and inside of us.

Joaquin-Torres Garcia is an Uruguayan modern artist whose artwork is related with the purpose of trying to find meaning in life and its fundamental values:

'It was necessary to put order in that world that right now seemed a chaos'

In modern times artists believe that art has the potential to transform the modern world, disturbed by permanent crises and restore order. The constructivism of Torres-García is integrated in this utopic projection motivated by an unsettled and idealist personality, dissatisfied with materialism and the absence of spirituality.

Organizing Chaos

Steps

1. Arriving: The facilitator guides a short exercise to bring the participants to the present, like: "Close your eyes and try to focus on the fact that you are here now, with your energy, your being, your mood. If any thoughts emerge let them go as if they were clouds in the sky. Now open your eyes, walk around and look at the space you are in and at the people you are with. When you feel you have arrived, stop and breathe in and out 3 times." When all participants are stopped the facilitator knows that he can start the activity.

2. Observe, interpret and share: - The facilitator asks the group to sit and to just observe the painting projected on the wall. Then he asks the participants to notice what catches their eye and what images they can identify. Afterwards, they can share some observations. - Then he asks the participants to share: "What do they think it is about? What does it represent? What is being communicated in the image? What could be the author(s) messages to us?" All ideas are welcome and since there are no right or wrong interpretations, just maybe different points of view, the group is invited to listen with curiosity and to avoid judgment. After the first sharing the facilitator can propose to find things in common in some or all perspectives.



3. Putting order in chaos: The facilitator asks participants to form groups of 3 to 4 persons. Each team has a dialogue about "How to organize the chaos around us?", taking notes on a paper, about the idea of life purpose, values, priorities and the creation of pillars for a better future. After the dialogue they should write the keywords and draw a symbol to represent each one of these pillars. Each group receives a flipchart paper and colors where they will try to place the different symbols and words, considering the size, the color, the position on the page, the categories existent and how to represent them. Now the group will focus on what words or ideas that come to mind from the artpiece they have created, and on writing, in a form of poem or other, a manifesto for the new future, that they will read and perform (dance, drama, etc) to present its artwork

4. Exhibition and performance - each group should expose their artwork in the place of the room they feel is better, creating an exhibition. Then the whole group visits the exhibition together, stopping at each artwork where its authors will perform the manifest. Afterwards the participants can share their ideas about the experience of the exhibition and the manifestos presented.

Comments

- This activity can also be done individually.
- If you want you can choose another artist/artisan or artwork to be the basis to reflect on the meaning of life and values associated with it.
- Remember: this is not an Arts class, we are simply looking for inspiration in the artist.
- This tool can be used at the end of a training/ journey to organize and reflect on the experience.

Reflection

- How did you feel during each part of the activity?
- What did you learn?
- How do you think this activity can contribute to individual and group resilience building?