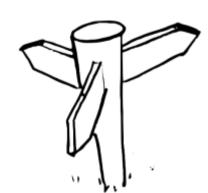




International Center for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW)



Make art, be ecocritical: Art is for sustainability



(1) What & how?

"Art is a lie that makes us realize truth" Pablo Picasso

Sustainability has become one of the most important themes of art today. Artists aim to increase the awareness of the society, sometimes with materials they use or with meanings they create. In the field of literature, ecocriticism approaches literature and environmental relations from an interdisciplinary perspective and analyze artworks that express environmental concerns and nature.



(2) Where? – location and (institutional) context

Firstly, the term of ecocriticism was mentioned by William Rueckert in "Literature and Ecology" (1978). Ecocriticism was later accepted and theorized by academic communities as an important discipline on literary and cultural studies.



(3) Whereto? – goals to be reached

By ecocritism, literature can describe us new opportunities, potentials, and threats. Literary works aim to make the society empathize with nature and re-question the human-nature relationship by presenting different perspectives. Thus, society can become conscious of the issue by getting rid of the anthropocentric perspective.

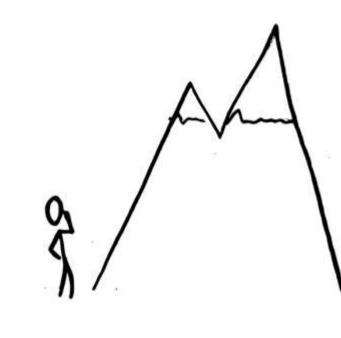


(4) Who? – Actors Authors, poets, play writers, artists, journalists, scholars, and readers are together.



(5) Ways beyond? – potentials and transfer opportunities

Art, which is a very effective and striking method to raise awareness of environmental problems, can cause individuals to take action faster. In addition, art is effective in making unconsidered aspects of the issue visible.

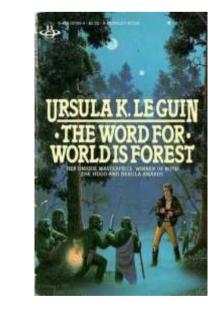


(6) But!? – challenges and/ or critical aspects

Artworks can sometimes be perceived as too fictional and far from reality for reader who does not have a background. In addition, access to artworks can be difficult for some classes of the society. It should also guide the society on how to communicate with artworks and art should be made more accessible.



(7) Suggestions?

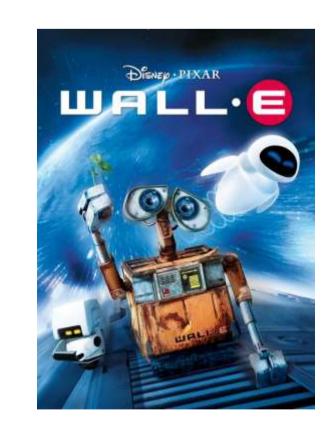


"In diversity is life and where there's life there's hope, was the general sum of his creed, a modest one to be sure."

— Ursula K. Le Guin



-Banksy



Contact:

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Basics of and new Perspectives on Sustainable Development – a digital learning journey

Competence Center for Sustainable Development

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