

„Rembrandt’s movie camera“



Our partners:
Germany
Crete
Bulgaria
Turkey
Romania
Italy

OUR PROJECT IDEA

We have two years to get to know each other, to start making short films, to visit each other and to look at works of art following the method of Bill Viola

In our last Erasmus + Plus project we were with students in Italy and visited, among other places, Florence. After a visit to the Uffizi gallery, students had free time for two hours. Jane and Mirko wanted to go to another exhibition. Bill Viola had a great retrospective in Florence and somehow we had heard of him and admired a video installation in another museum, but we really couldn't do anything with this American artist. To our great surprise, some students wanted to accompany us. Going to another exhibition after the Uffizi was crazy, but we didn't regret it. Here we got to know the oeuvre of an internationally successful artist who had created such interesting and original works with his video installations that we were amazed. Our students entered the exhibition hall, which was completely dark and showing the video art of Bill Viola on huge screens. The students were extremely impressed by what they saw and that's when the idea for our next Erasmus + program was born! We wanted to use artworks by old masters as templates to make short videos that addressed the question: what happened in the moments just before and just after the snapshot of a picture. The painting is a momentary shot. It is rigid and without movement. In his slow

motion video films, Bill Viola shows these moments in motion. Actors represent the figures of the paintings with typical details of the clothes without making a costume movie out of them and emphasizing the emotions of the characters. We really wanted to try this method to explore the content of classic masterpieces with the children! We wanted to deal with the great art of the old masters with modern methods of film.

We chose the name Rembrandt's movie camera for our project because Rembrandt exemplifies the old masters. We wanted to consider the question "What would Rembrandt have done if he had had a camera?"



Our Erasmus + project started in September 2018. Before that, we had searched for new partner schools and decided that we wanted to work together with two partners from our last project. There are students from 10 to 12 years involved in the project. Our goal is for students to increase their motivation to learn to improve their ability to work as a team, and to enhance their knowledge of local history, geography, art and music through the use of innovative teaching methods. We also want them to recognize the importance of speaking and learning a foreign language and helping them to understand other people and their cultures across Europe. Bill Viola's method should help us to reinterpret works of art from bygone times.

1ST MEETING -

The first meeting with teachers took place in October 2018 in Istanbul

Not all the teachers of the project had met in person yet. When planning an Erasmus + project, you are looking for partners on a website called etwinning. You have to introduce yourself and the school and the project idea, then schools from all over Europe come forward. You choose the partners and start developing a program together with them.

In our case, we wrote an application and hoped that the application would be accepted. Then the project started. Through the Erasmus + program we received the money we needed for the successful implementation of our project. Of course we wrote our application in English! The joy was great with all partners when we learned that our project could start. But until Turkey the teachers only knew each other via e-mail, Skype and Facebook. It's not so easy to communicate on social networks if you've never met in person. So the teachers went to Istanbul with great expectations. There we were received so warmly in the school, as we had also experienced in Turkey during other trips. We got to know each other, talked about our further activities and visited many museums and sights as well as the lesson observations. Istanbul is a

vibrant, colourful city, cosmopolitan and always busy. The city has 19 million inhabitants and we were glad that none of us got lost.

Activities for the next two years:



Traveling with students to:

Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Crete

Joint activities:

- Logo competition
- Short film about your own school
- PowerPoint on National Artworks & Artists
- 1st short film after Bill Viola "Our Artwork"
- 9-5-2019 Europe Day "Art"
- PowerPoint "Our favorite European artwork"
- 2nd short after Bill Viola "Our Favorite European Artwork"
- Collage on Old Masterpieces in Modernism
- Christmas cards from artworks
- 3. Short film after Bill Viola
- Production of an art calendar
- 3. Short film after Bill Viola's "One painting different views"
- film presentations in large graduation exhibitions in each country
- 9-5-2020 Europe Day "Art"
- film presentations in large graduation exhibitions in each country



A second trip with students took place in November 2018

The first student workshops took place in Germany for a week. Here, the students lived in host families and the hosts organised a variety of activities. So everyone was forced to communicate in English. We started with a Welcome- Party at school on Sunday. We danced Balfolk together and had a great buffet. During the week we did some trips to Schwerin to the museum, where we organised a guided tour and various workshops. It turned out that the acting process in front of the original paintings was so vivid and full of excitement, as if the spirit of the old masters had just been waiting to be turned into vivid imagery. We put a selection of costumes and props in front of the paintings, which the performers could choose from. Then the performers had to come up with a story about the scene on the painting and present it. This workshop was action-oriented and open-minded, so that many scenarios were possible. The groups then moved from one painting to another, changing costumes and props. They recorded their short scenes with mobile phones and tripods. This minimal equipment is sufficient for our project, since most mobile phones have a good resolution and the possibility for slow-motion shots.

We also visited various artist studios in Schwerin. A trip to Berlin took us to the Museum of Roman / Greek Antiquities. At the school in Hagenow, the children participated in various workshops, pottery, produced cinematic documentation and made games. They also took

part in classes, with learning in mixed groups. There was no school bell, no grades and many action-oriented opportunities for the guests to experience. At the end of the week the festival of lights took place in the school. The first short films made in the museum and our documentation of the activities are good proof that our project idea will work. We used the film's nonverbal language capabilities and interpreted the Old Masters in the museums in a profoundly creative way.



GERMANY TRAVEL IN NOVEMBER



A second trip with students took place in April 2019

The second workshop week for students took place in Lucca, Italy. All project partners brought more students than originally planned, so we were a big group, which made the organization difficult. Nevertheless, all students were housed with host families and experienced many interesting, useful and unforgettable activities and excursions. We explored Pisa and Florence and visited a number of interesting museums. The Italian partner school consists of several small schools spread across the countryside and it was very interesting for everyone to see how familiar and quiet the atmosphere in these small schools can be. Our big Erasmus + group took part in many competitions, such as a scavenger hunt in the city and sports activities. Special features of the school system, such as school uniforms or timetables and holiday periods were observed by the guest students. The common language in the group was English and the best experience for the children was that they could communicate with each other.

The first project results were evaluated in the team meetings.

It would be great if we could establish personal contact with Bill Viola. His method is extremely suitable for working with children in the classroom and all partners have had their first good experiences. Collaboration with the museums where the paintings are found is quite difficult, but at least the children left the museum with a new motivation. We think Bill Viola would love to know about it!

In the coming weeks, the ties between the students, the teachers, the host families and the schools will be further developed and expanded. However, the work of the teachers, who have to organise a workshop week, should not be underestimated!



ITALY TRIP IN APRIL 2019

