

Learning to Look: Art for Kids and Young

URL: <http://www.uazg.hr/likovna-kultura/ucimogledati.htm>

► Theoretical level:

With this website, made for eLearning, one can be educated about some concepts of visual language and ways of interpreting an art work. Avoiding a stereotype about dependence of artwork on individual opinion, «likeing» and «inspiration», pupil is being lead page by page through a virtual handbook placed inside a virtual gallery. User can choose one of the basic links: Line, Plane, Mass and Space and Colour. He will see, on many examples through 11 – 14 pages, how and why artists use the art elements as line, colour, space and mass, etc. User will learn what is hue, primary and secondary colours, shades, lightness, saturation, modulation, types of mass and space, forms and shapes, ground-plan and many more. Friendly characters will lead the user on that way, and finally, in the end of the lesson, showing him/her a little quiz. Characters (boy or girl) is interactive, he or she reacts on mouseover with move. Quizzes have five questions for every lesson. If the user gives the wrong answer, the right explanations follows. In the end pupil gets a grade.

Why are educational contents needed on web? School system is too slow in follow changes of world for wich it prepares children. Methods of education often bore children introduced already with possibilities of interactive information technology. School information are often out of date. Also, Croatian school system does not correlatively associate other school subjects with visual elements and ideas. Therefore, there is a need for that kind of correlation through other media (in this case Internet).

On the other hand, young people uncritically take information from the Internet in an unselective and unreliable way. Moderator is needed to advise pupils witch information is valid. Pupils and teachers would have an easier job if qualified authors would start create verified base of programs and web pages.

Internet has a couple of crucial advantages form classical methods of teaching: it is assessable all the time from individual homes, and interactive grading system decreases stress, witch many pupils have in other methods of testing. Pupil can advance individually, in his own pace. They can repeat subjects as many times necessary and get graded without a mediator.

These programs are not jet systematically and scientifically tested: children in lower grades of primary schools use them in schools in separated cases, as a part of regular art classes. Results are encouraging – children perceive learning as computer video game and grading as collecting points. Some teachers report that some children continue using these pages individually, after regular classes.

These web pages are made for children, but they are useful for adults as well. There is a version on Croatian and English language.

► Practical level:

Website includes “**Architecture of Square**”,

on URL: <http://www.uazg.hr/likovna-kultura/Flash/English/help.htm>

The function of this web site is to help bringing into awareness certain contents which participate in a process of composing a work of art; as well as to entertain the user.

The user, by choosing one of the **basic image** chooses certain disposition; however some parts are animated which enables varying disposition according to free will.

Animation of a basic image is achieved by using mouse roll cursor (arrow) over basic image and by pressing buttons. Then, **surfaces** can be added to image, and their size, orientation and colour can be change by user. Clicking on the image changes colours in the order of the spectrum: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple and added black and white. Transparency makes them lighter.

Added surfaces can be **controled** by buttons visible under the basic image. Buttons are organized in four groups, for each surface one group: first for left surface, second for upper, third for lower and fourth group for the right surface. Functions of buttons are shown on image 2: rotation, stretching and transparency.

At last, a **signature** can be added to the finished image by clicking on a button "signature". This button is also at the same time hiding all buttons (irreversibly with current "painting!") which enables clean printing of created and signed image.

There is a version on Croatian, German and English language.

► Communication level:

Website also includes **Forum**

In forum user can choose topic, and also open one of he's own. There he can leave messages (private or public), and communicate with other users.