



Lowenfeldian Philosophy for Children

They say, “A picture is worth a thousand words”, and rightfully so. John said, “Little children: keep yourselves from idols”. But images have become a permanent and critical part of modern day technological life.

Victor Lowenfeld expressly and thoroughly gave us his life philosophy called *Creative and Mental Growth*, that explains child’s attempt to understand the world through his/her eyes and mind. This philosophy has been adopted by Art teachers worldwide, from elementary to college. When I apply it to my own art-making, it always takes me from the reality of an “evil” world to the innocence of my childhood with my mom downstairs. But little by little, my time to draw gets interrupted by thoughts on the romantics of a world battling the forces of Lucifer using *science as a weapon*. It does work, but it is becoming increasingly apparent that only God can solve certain problems concerning the baffling rising study of *forensics*. Our world is being threatened by “evil” images.

Mr. Lowenfeld taught us to allow a child to draw from his *imagination*, thus excluding visual stimuli and reducing it to memories and thoughts he or she has about his world around him. It was successful at creating models of objects in the mind, and comparing the symbolism of one image to another. Yes, it made us all a little transparent, but we all had a clear conscious, and we trusted Lowenfeld. He returned to us as a great gift: the ability to bring out our *mind’s eye*. That philosophy, coupled with Getty’s DBEA to satisfy any curriculum, constituted much of my teaching as a young man.

But an imagination can be misused, as God made clear in Exodus 20, if not chiefly by introducing the knowledge of sin: a forensic reserved for any Kingdom on the earth outside of God’s. When evil people develop evil images to persuade men, God calls them IDOLS; but without an open knowledge of them, the legal society would not know here to begin keeping us safe from what could follow in reality.

It is my hope that Lowenfeld’s science can combine with the Holy Spirit to keep our children happy and safe by both admiring good art and making it themselves.

-Jim Robinson, November 2024