

# Using Digital Technology in a Visual Art context in the post primary curriculum; A European Investigation.



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## Research Question

Technology is changing the way visual art is created and shared by young people, challenging school art programs to remain current and relevant. With all this technological capacity at our fingertips, how is the visual art classroom adapting to this new world?

*Who is doing what & who is doing what best?*

## Introduction

- ICT and new digital media have enabled new and more efficient ways of doing things and provides new tools that facilitate students' learning.
- Many studies show that digital media use in the formal classroom, particularly by students, still remains limited.
- Developing an understanding of how and why digital media is used and not used continues to be of interest.
- While much has been written about ICT and technology in education overall and in the everyday classroom, far less has been written in the visual art classroom context.

This study analyses the extent new media and technology is implemented in the post primary visual art classroom across several European sites which include:

Ireland, Finland, Spain, Austria, Norway, Malta, Italy, Estonia, UK, Czech Republic, France, alongside Turkey, Lebanon and Tunisia.

## Research Design

- This study follows a constructivist design developed by Charmaz.
- Qualitative approach has been employed in this research, through the implementation of comprehensive online interviews and focus groups with teachers of visual art.
- The data collected from the sample allows for further elaboration on the subject for analysis and comparison within an Irish and European capacity.
- Following the stance taken by Maréchal (2010) whereby research that involves some self-observation and reflexive investigation with an a/r/t/ographic perspective, the use of field notes and visual documentation during the data collection phases to explore the interstitial space between the practice and documenting the practice .



## This Study Supports the;

- Exchange of good practices while encouraging training and exchange to enhance the quality of teaching.
- Analyses teacher experience and expectation, supports the use of digital technologies to improve pedagogies and assessment methods.
- Supports transnational teacher training and strengthening cooperation between European teachers and education institutions.

## Aims

- To identify if and how teachers use Digital Technology (DT) and new media in teaching and learning in the Visual Art classroom.
- To discover which DT materials and new media which teachers use in the teaching of Visual Art.
- To affirm if and how students engage with DT and new media in the Visual Art classroom.
- To affirm if and how DT and new media are integrated into the teaching and learning experience in a way that ensures students are at the heart of the experience rather than being spectators.
- To establish what approaches to teaching and learning successfully integrates the use of DT and new media in the visual art classroom.