The Development of Art Appreciation Abilities of Pupils in Primary School

Abstract

In Slovenian schools pupils have few opportunities to observe, understand and enjoy works of art. Contemporary art education in Slovenia should aim to combine the development of productive and receptive artistic abilities. This would make more comprehensive artistic development of pupils possible.

In this study we monitored the development of the art-appreciation abilities of 10–11-year old pupils in primary schools in northeastern Slovenia. The results show that the level of art-appreciation abilities is somewhat average, however, girls showed higher developed art-appreciation abilities than boys. Based on the results we can conclude that the development of art appreciation abilities in our art-education program is given too little attention.

Keywords: art appreciation, visual arts education, primary school, perception and reception of artworks

Introduction

Contemporary art education works in two directions: the first is directed toward developing the creative abilities of pupils, and the second tries to establish a suitable attitude towards works of art and culture. (Duh & Zupančič, 2009). Quality art education can best be achieved with the implementation of both productive and receptive artistic activities. The role of understanding our contemporary cultural environment has become one of the most important aspects of modern teaching.