

**Hegarty, Catherine, 1996, *A Study of the Relevance of Art Education in Second Level Schools as a means of promoting the Spiritual, Emotional and Intellectual Development of the Adolescent***

## **ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION**

There has been a poor tradition of support for visual education in the Irish school system since the foundation of the State in 1922. With the imminent approach of the new millennium it is appropriate to examine the position that art now holds in the Irish educational system and to consider innovative ways in which it might be made more relevant in the lives of our young people.

Chapter 1 introduces the topic, puts it in context and undertakes a brief review of economic and educational changes that took place in the 1960s, with a view to identifying some salient points in the evolution of art education in Ireland.

Chapter 2 outlines curriculum development at both primary and second-level. It examines the changes that have occurred in the methods of training art teachers. The effect of these changes on the employment prospects of art teachers is also examined. Issues relating to the introduction of the new Junior Certificate Programme in Art, the in-service training provided at that time for art teachers, and the assessment methods to be applied in the examination are presented.

Chapter 3 concentrates on the potential of aesthetic education to promote the spiritual, emotional and intellectual development of the adolescent. The concept of intelligence in the educational system is critically analysed and the different types of intelligence are outlined.

Chapter 4 outlines the search for an appropriate research method and summarises the results of the postal survey conducted among practising art teachers in the MidWest Region of Ireland. The findings 'on the relevance of art in the curriculum of second-level schools in Ireland' are presented in diagrammatic form for ease of access.

Chapter 5 briefly summarises the study and presents the conclusions. In the light of these findings the author makes a number of recommendations in the areas of syllabus, facilities, in-service training for art teachers and on the registration and employment status of art teachers. The contention is that society as a whole and the students in particular will be the richer for a deeper understanding of the true place of art in the curriculum of second-level schools in Ireland.