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Florence Cane

1882-1952

Leading Progressive Art Educator

She and Her Sister Margaret Naumberg
Influenced Art Therapy in America

Ideas Could Be Labeled as New Age Today. Founded
the Walden School

Cane, influenced by the Psychologist Jung, allowed children to self-guide their art making by prompting them to listen to their inner imaginings. She insisted on large motor movements inspired by music and dance to lead their mark making. Allowed students to work in studio atmosphere. Cane instructed her students in basic material use, but then allowed them to work freely without visual prompts from examples. Believed teaching technique should only happen when the child indicated they wanted it. As children matured they were expected to move to more conscious control of their expression. She engaged students in conversations to help them clarify what they did or did not like in their artwork. Did not compare their art making to that of adults.

Stankiewicz, M. A. (2001). Anyone can learn to draw. In M. A. Stankiewicz, Roots of art education practice. Worcester, MA: Davis Publications.

Cane, F. (1983). The artist in each of us. Craftsbury Common, VT: Art Therapy Publications