



## **PREFACE**

These conference proceedings bring together the contributions presented at the international conference *Art (History) in Educational Contexts*, held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, within the project *Art and the State in Croatia from the Enlightenment to the Present* (HRZZ-IP-2018-01-9364) of the Croatian Science Foundation. The topic chosen for the conference was aimed at (re)activating and revitalising the academic community's interest in the valorisation of the educational role and the position of art history, visual arts, and visual culture within various educational systems, institutional frameworks and pedagogical practices, and at affirming art history didactics as a scientific rather than merely a professional field. The relevance and timeliness of the given topic was corroborated by the interest to participate of experts from nine countries – Austria, Croatia, Italy, Germany, Poland, the United States of America, Slovenia, Serbia and the United Kingdom, and the conference proved to be a stimulating platform for initiating discussions and posing new research questions. Out of 26 submitted presentations, 24 were delivered within six thematic sessions: *History of Art (History) Education*, *Art (History) and Educational Policies*, *New Approaches to Teaching Art (History)*, *Museums and Formal Education*, *Participative Practices*, *(New) Media in Art (History) Education*. The presentations encompassed almost the entire educational vertical, from primary to higher education, with particular emphasis on examining the relationship between local, regional and/or national educational policies and teaching visual arts (history) in the historical as well as in the contemporary context. In addition to examples from formal education, instances from informal education were also presented showcasing museum

activities, programmes and participatory practices which incorporate visual arts and history of art in various ways. In the informal education segment, history of art and visual culture were examined in the context of lifelong learning, while certain presentations emphasised the work with vulnerable groups and pupils with special educational needs. The conference was open to the wider public, and it attracted the attention of high-school Visual Arts teachers, who found the presented topics highly relevant for their teaching practice.

Finally, the proceedings are prepared within the project *Representation, Development, Education, Participation – Art in Society in 19th-21st Centuries* (HRZZ-IP-2022-10-9843) of the Croatian Science Foundation. It comprises 14 papers written by 18 authors altogether, organised alphabetically by the authors' surnames. The papers in the proceedings reflect the conceptual and methodological diversity of approaches to visual arts (history) in educational contexts – from those that explore the topic from the lens of contemporary didactic and pedagogic theories, to texts that deal with the history of visual or art history education, either through focussing on certain moments in history or through chronological overviews, up to the papers which present results of empirical research and museum or university projects.

We extend our thanks to all the authors for the efforts invested, their valuable contributions and excellent cooperation and patience during the entire process of compiling these proceedings. We believe their texts will find their readership and incite future research, conferences and papers which will further deepen understanding of specific educational aspects of visual arts (history). In order to ensure quality and scientific validity, all papers have undergone double peer review. Therefore, we would like to take the opportunity to express sincere gratitude

to peer reviewers, who enthusiastically responded to our call for cooperation and contributed to the final versions of the papers with their professional comments. Sincere thanks to the proof-reader Ana Horvatović for her careful reading and linguistic refinement of the papers, the graphic designer Ivana Klement for creating a distinctive visual design for these proceedings and Ivanka Cokol and Boris Bui from FF Press for the layout. We also thank Professor Dragan Damjanović, the research project manager and the colleague from the History of Art Department of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, for his encouragement and support in organising the conference and publishing these proceedings. We thank the Croatian Science Foundation and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth for their financial support in the proceedings design and printing.

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