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Drawings that Teach to See - Drawing as a medium of communication between teacher and student

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Drawing is an important activity in art lessons, relevant in many creative processes. As far as the necessary material is concerned, drawing can be very simple, but it can also be very complex concerning the transformation of lines on paper into meaning. Actually, it does not take much to make a good drawing and we admire most those drawings that convince us effortlessly. As a reaction to the digital revolution, handmade pictures have gained a new value.

It is certainly true that we work with a lot of different materials when teaching visual literacy. Nevertheless, drawing is essential in developing ideas, in designing, in studying. In this lecture, I want to address a number of questions related to how competencies in designing and visualizing can be acquired. We are going to look at the communication between the student and the teacher reflecting drawings out of different sources, e. g. artistic, media, everyday-life. Special focus will be given to drawing as a means of explanation: What makes a good explanatory drawing and how do teachers thereby influence the creative process?

Surprisingly, this is a topic not much talked about, as if we were trying to hide our skills in the ambivalent role of being both art teachers and artists. I want to take a closer look at the pictures that we teachers create to instruct, explain, set impulses and communicate. And it makes sense to evaluate the achievements and the learning progress in relation to the kind of images teachers use.