Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:
The Right Thing

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• Abstract (300 words):
In the last decades, the discussion around art and design education distanced itself from the technical skills and theoretical aspects of the subject, to refocus on practice and experience. However, the core of teaching and learning remains in fact closely related to ethics. This notion is essential in creative disciplines: critical thinking, autonomy and originality emerge as a result of sound reasoning based on observation. This perspective is fundamental but rarely addressed in the classroom. In reality, it does occur naturally, but also implicitly. Because in art and design projects, a significant role is dedicated to self-expression, the message to be conveyed requires an objective, fair-minded and dedicated mentality. In this regard, previous research demonstrated that to achieve honesty and integrity, basic reminders suffice. But the topic is often considered incidental and assigned a secondary position, related to common sense. In the context of universities and colleges, the responsibility of communicating about conscious behavior is generally assumed by the educators. But the question is seldom evaluated at a teaching level. Additionally, it is predictable that the majority of the knowledge taught in class will be forgotten within a relatively short period of time. What can survive and prevail is the practice of thinking responsibly. In this configuration, the importance of role models is paramount. The implications of identification and awareness materialize in deep layers of creative production, reaching spheres
of meaning, value as well as efficiency, deeply influencing the quality of the work itself. In a broader approach and in any frame of reference, the emphasis can be repositioned to include moral principles that only necessitate elementary reiteration, because in its substance, education is primarily a humane activity.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):
Cedric van Eenoo is an artist, musician, filmmaker, designer, educator and scholar. He is a member of Brooklyn Arts Council and affiliated with the Artists Rights Society in New York. His art is exhibited at Manhattan Graphics Center; Hammond Museum; Brooklyn Art Library; The Painting Center; Queens College Art Library of The City University of New York; Pelham Art Center; Marin Museum of Contemporary Art; Katonah Museum of Art; Rochester Contemporary Art Center; Artcomplex Center of Tokyo. He is represented in Japan by Tokyo Art Gallery, and World Fine Art Gallery in New York City.