

# Unspoken Interactions : Exploring the Role of Emotions and Social Interactions in Art and Design Education

This CLIP CETL research project at the University of the Arts London is the result of a collaboration with Dr Noam Austerlitz, International Visiting Research Fellow.

Dr Austerlitz is using a participatory action research approach to introduce the outcomes of his PhD research on the role of emotions in the design studio and to raise awareness of the role of emotions and social interactions in art and design pedagogy.

The primary assumption of the project is that students recognise the world around them as whole human beings, thus what is known as their educational experience is actually an accumulation of bodily sensations, intellectual interpretations and the affective domain whilst they are learning.

Dr Austerlitz has brought together a team of collaborators who work with students in various roles to explore areas around these themes and examine ways in which theoretical concepts of emotions and interactions can be included in art and design educational practice. The knowledge gained through the project will be utilised to maximise opportunities for learning through broadening our understanding of creative learning in practice.

The project's outcomes were disseminated to a wider audience, beyond the immediate art and design context, to those who are working with students in practice based learning contexts through a Symposium, hosted by the CLIP CETL and the

University of the Arts London. This one-day national symposium was held on 10th December 2007 at London College of Fashion, John Princes Street with support from the Practice Based Professional Learning CETL at the Open University and the Art Design Media Subject Centre. The themes of the day included paper presentations on emotions and interactions from a variety of perspectives, workshops on affectivity and effectivity in teaching and learning as well as movement, embodiment and reflection, and panel presentations and round table discussions on ways forward.

An anthology of papers produced by project participants and guest edited by the organisers of the Symposium will be published in 2008 in a special issue of the journal *Art Design and Communication in Higher Education* entitled, 'Unspoken Interactions': exploring emotions and social interactions in art, design and communication in higher education. In addition, the CLIP CETL, in association with Dr Noam Austerlitz is producing an anthology of writings by UAL staff, the culmination of the large-scale collaborative action research project across the UAL. The papers are based on individual observations and research into the role of emotions in different teaching and learning situations.