

Social Networks for Art Teachers and Students

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Social networks have become a popular way to share, communicate, interact, and build relationships with others on the Web (www.commoncraft.com/video-social-networking). While Facebook.com and MySpace.com are currently the best-known social networks for young people, many more sites have emerged recently that cater to groups with particular interests. The following social networks will appeal to art teachers and students.

Art Education 2.0 arted20.ning.com

Art Education 2.0 is for art educators at all levels who are interested in using digital technologies to enhance and transform art teaching and learning. First-time visitors need to sign up for a free account to gain access to the site. Members can participate in forums, groups, projects, blogging, and photo and video sharing, and receive site updates through RSS feeds. Current forum categories cover topics from "Art Assessment," to "Best Digital Practices," to "Secondary Art Education." Similarly, groups have been formed around interests like "First-Year Art Teachers," "Teaching Animation," "Voice-thread in the Artroom," and more. Whether you're just starting to work with technology in the classroom or have years of experience, all levels are welcome.

DesignEducation designeducationk12.ning.com

The aim of this site is to promote design education at the K-12 level. To join the DesignEducation com-

munity, you need to first sign up for a free account. In addition to photo and video sharing, blogging, and RSS feeds, members can participate in forum discussions and groups that focus on topics like "Design Thinking," "Product Design," "Information Design," "Environmental Design," and "Experience Design." Members are encouraged to share design curriculum, lesson ideas, and assessments. Art teachers, as well as other educators interested in design education, will find this site informative and useful.

Art Snacks essdackartsnacks.ning.com

Art Snacks provides a safe learning environment for young artists interested in developing their art skills. While Art Snacks invites kids to upload their artwork and get feedback from members, it is also a place where educators and parents share and obtain ideas for art lessons and projects to do in their classrooms and homes. There are hundreds of short video art lessons, called "Art Snacks," available through the site, which address state learning standards in various school subjects including art.

In addition, members can participate in photo and video sharing, blogging, forums, and groups. Registration is required to access the site.

TakingITGlobal www.takingitglobal.org

TakingITGlobal connects youths (ages 11-13) from around the globe who want to make a difference in their communities on local, national, and international levels. The site provides resources and tools for members to "find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action." Among the many features on the site is the Global Gallery that serves as a "platform for artistic expression that aims to promote cross-cultural understanding worldwide." Free membership is obtained through online registration.

To learn more about how to incorporate the site's resources and tools into your classroom, visit TakingITGlobal for Educators (www.tiged.org).

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