

F L O S S I E P E I T S C H

Visual Artist

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Teaching Us Art:

When the Student is Designer, Fabricator, and Subject for Truly Fine Art.*

ACLE 3, Melbourne, October 2008

By Dr. Flossie Peitsch, PhD

PARTICIPANT HANDOUT SHEET

*A full copy of the paper (presented in Kassel, Germany, in 2007) from which this presentation has been drawn, is being published in 'The International Journal of the Arts in Society'. Google it under the name 'Unteaching Art' early next year.

My PhD 'THE IMMORTAL NOW: Visualizing the Place Where Spirituality and Today's Families Meet' is a readable document broaching this topic and can be downloaded at:

<http://wallaby.vu.edu.au/adt-VVUT/public/adtVVUT20070716.110012/index.html>

Recommended Publication Resources

▶ **'Your family and Mine 'and teacher's manual, being a Christian and an artist, Teaching drawing and painting by FLO-ART- Send an order to Flossie –for FLO-ART KIT @ \$45 plus packing/shipping to the email above**

▶ **'Art and Soul'** considering contemporary Christian art (Peitsch's) and spirituality,
Order online:

<http://www.thenile.com.au/search.php?sid=d2451b82cd12623d2d42703bce5b3fc6&s=art+and+soul+flossie+peitsch>

<http://www.holisticpage.com.au/FlossiePeitsch:artAndSoul|9781876832711>

▶ **'enterartandsoul'** a low cost hybrid digital art exhibition for all settings, enquire of the artist, details in this [handout](#)

'The arts' is a universal language which allows entry into worlds often thought out of range for personal voice, communication and spiritual expression. Each culture excels in 'other than text' languages. This just needs to be recognized, learned and tapped.

Workshop Ideas

'Untaught but learned' art →→reinforces clichés

'Unlearned but taught' art →→erases clichés

**By skillfully overriding artistic clichés and references,
the art process is free to creatively teach us.**

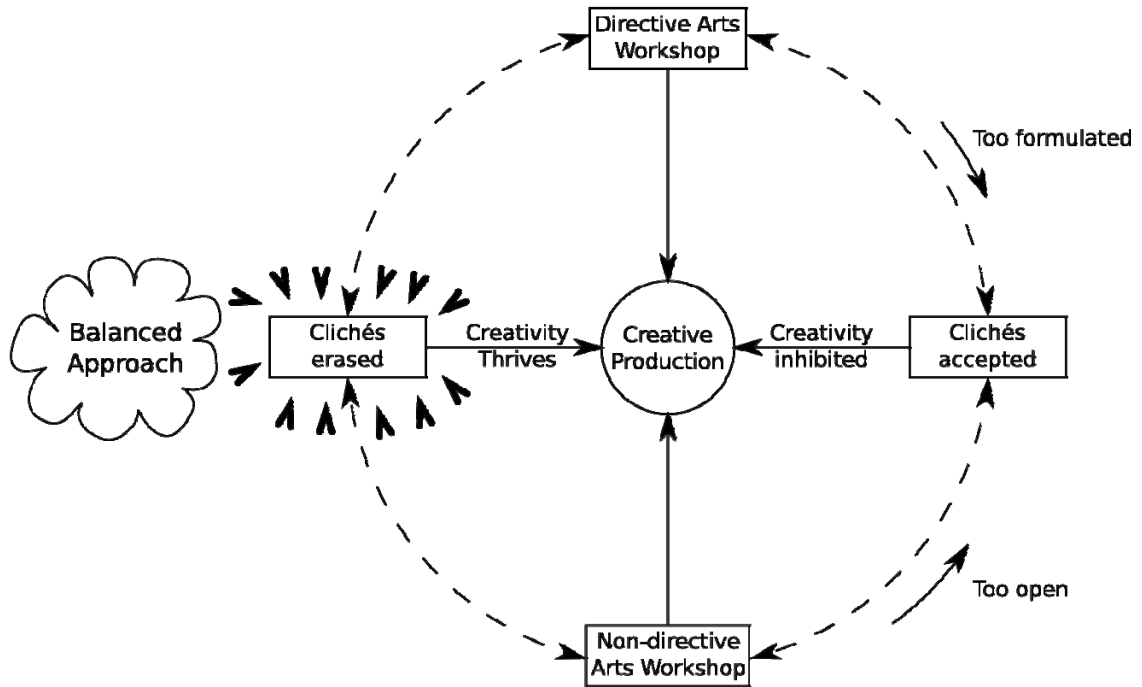
Creative Production

I have found it is possible to dramatically raise peoples' artistic sensibilities and abilities with clear modelling and a high degree of expectation. I maintain that the best art classes offer a monitored path between a pile of raw material resources and a strictly directed 'now follow my instructions carefully' lesson. An art educator needs to decide for themselves which approach suits their own theories of art production. This process is in keeping with Victoria University's School of Education's current emphasis on praxis inquiry as a most useful way for preservice teachers to choose their pedagogy. Set up labelled sites during my presentation at the conference allow participants to position themselves in regard to directive or non-directive art education and to reflect on the likely artistic outcomes. The accompanying diagram is a visual reference for consideration.

Replacing clichés with more challenging art images causes participants to personalize their responses and search for deeper representation than using casual popular clichéd symbols offer. They also feel good about producing 'real' art themselves and being part of a larger, impressive, aesthetic outcome.

ARTS PEDAGOGY

Position self somewhere on dotted line



© Flossie Peitsch, *On teaching art*. 2007

ISBN 1 876832 71 1 Hard cover; 128 pages plus DVD Colour throughout.



ART AND SOUL

FLOSSIE PEITSCH

A Multi- authored monograph with contributions by Cresside Collette, Rosemary Crumlin, Megan Evans, Tony Fox, Peter Haffenden, Linda Macqueen, Mark Minchinton, Penny Mulvey, Patrick Negri, Neal Nuske, Thomas Peitsch, Claire Renkin, Maureen Ryan, Andrew Sibley, Russell Storer, Mike Stubbs and Val Webb.

Canadian-born and now Melbourne-based, Flossie Peitsch is both a noted visual artist and a mother of six. She is also an active community artist who involves her family and hundreds of others in major art projects relating to Australia's history and current ways of life.

And she does so from a Christian perspective, which is examined throughout the book. Using performance and installation art techniques – as well as traditional painting and drawing and women's crafts of embroidery, tapestry and knitting – Flossie loses few opportunities to engage the imagination and creativity of those involved in the projects and also those who witness them.

This is an intriguing and richly illustrated book focused on the work of an extraordinarily vibrant and effective Australian artist who operates slightly outside the mainstream.

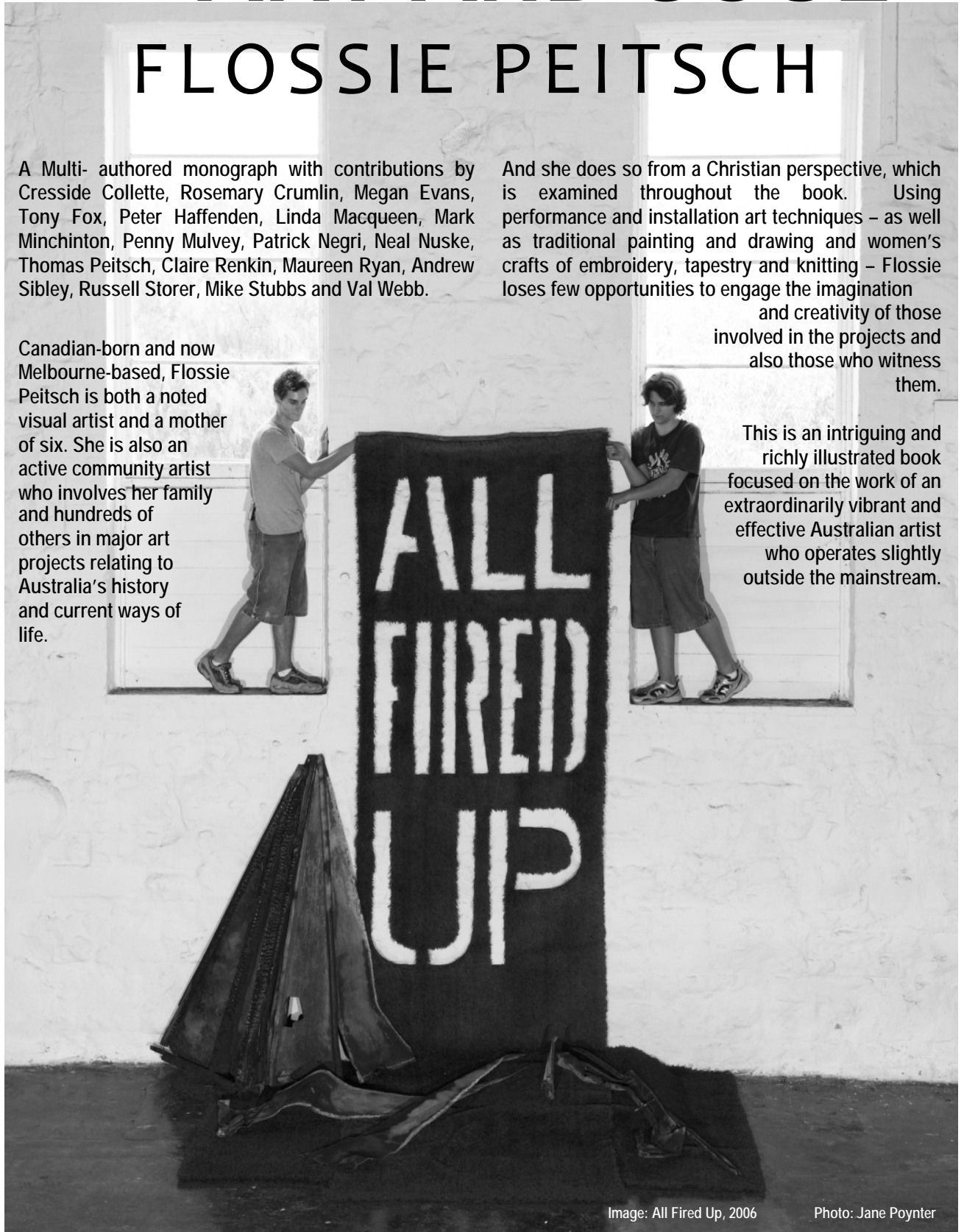


Image: All Fired Up, 2006

Photo: Jane Poynter

**Proposal for 2009 Hybrid Exhibition for School Campuses
throughout the USA, Canada and Australia**

**enterartandsoul:
Locating the Spiritual Self in
Community Space and Place
Dr. Flossie Peitsch, PhD**

Statement of Exhibition

There is a keen interest in spirituality today, a new search for meaning. As Tacey (2003, p.2) comments; "We are caught in a difficult moment in history, stuck between a secular system we have out grown and a religious system we cannot fully embrace. " Clearly a spirituality exists that is no longer associated with religion. I believe the starting point for this spirituality is in the everyday. A microcosm of community, it exists in families and in family homes. This is where life's ultimate questions seem to be answered – Who am I? Where am I? Why am I here?

enterartandsoul follows my own journey as an immigrant finding place and space in Australia. Being a mother, I also attempt to locate my children in the landscape. The soundscaped digital compositions of measure and movement deconstruct fixed references to the spiritual self and the immortal.

September 11th has increased a fear of other cultures. There has never been a better time to globally effect much more than tolerance but to search for common values, visions and discover a universal spirituality as transferred through community. Through art I explore the role of faith in building a harmonious multi-cultural society. I go beyond the obvious to seek art and soul.

Tacey, David. 2003. *The Spirituality Revolution – the emergence of contemporary spirituality*. HarperCollins, Sydney.

Exhibition Requirements

enterartandsoul consists of several DVD movie-type creative productions as found on the DVD in the book of the same name. It is a flexible exhibition as it can be expanded or contracted as required. There are seven productions from which to choose. Four (4) are Fine Art based and three (3) are community-art based. Selected productions will work well in an intimate setting but also are very powerful as isolated pieces in a large space. A closed audio/visual campus

system is suggested, but the DVD productions can be used as part of or following worship or incidentally as part of general campus life.

Date of availability

Currently available and ready for exhibition; can be exhibited at any number of schools at the same time..

Considerations

The exhibition consists of the data projections of the creative productions only.

Associated Costs

There would be no transport costs to the gallery, as the art is contained on DVD. The school would purchase the book 'Art and Soul' by Flossie Peitsch to access the DVD. A fee of \$250 would allow the school a 'leasing fee' (reduced from \$1,500) to use the DVD productions for unlimited presentation during a set period. This fee could be waved with application for special consideration- negotiable only if it would jeopardize the exhibition at your school/college.

Artistic Clichés and Portraying the Divine



What we accept in art is mostly pre-school level. By the end of primary school we would not sanction this level in any other subject area. It is well documented that untaught or pre-taught reading or writing, maths or science is progressed with instruction. But this concept is not completely accepted within the arts area. It is usual for teachers to offer various media experiences without expecting increased conceptual or perceptual intrigue (Riley 2007). This is not at all to infer that childrens' art should be adult-like. But it should not be trite and undemanding even for a child.

It is currently inferred that almost everything that is produced in art or the arts is 'praise worthy'. All outcomes are good because the child, or adult for that matter, is 'expressing themselves'. It does not seem to matter how unartistic, predictable, boring, uncreative, or clichéd the results appear.

***Your Family and Mine (Peitsch 1995)* is a popular classroom resource designed to help teachers model innovative drawing and painting, devoid of clichés. It is a well-liked, tried and true classroom resource with a unique Christian slant. Order by email from Flossie Peitsch.**