

Laura Keeney

September 14, 2013

ARE6933

Worldwide Collaboration in Progress: A Scoop.it Collection

Today's vast interconnected system of communication systems is making it much easier for artists to share, communicate ideas, and collaborate all over the globe. Global projects, as well as individual communities are participating in projects and initiatives that celebrate the participatory nature of people, art, and creativity, and it has become easier than ever to be a part of the creative community. This Scoop.it collection highlights collaboration through many different lenses: individual artists working with other disciplines, artists partnering to develop a body of work or raise awareness for a cause, artist collectives working to transform space, and global art projects spanning art classrooms, studio rooms, as well as public spaces.

Collaboration comes in many different forms, and throughout the collection, a few artists are highlighted for their unique collaborative processes within their own work. Martin Klimas shows a unique relationship between music and art, and uses the two together, along with photography, to illustrate the visual nature of music through paint (Klimas, n.d.). Additionally, artist Jim Denevan curates the *Outstanding in the Field Project*, a culinary initiative to bring together consumers, farmers, and local diners to honor the earth from which our food grows (Outstanding in the Field, 2010). Nathalie Miebach and Theresa Sauer both include musical collaboration within their work, and even include composers and musical compilations with their visual pieces (Miebach, n.d.; Sauer, n.d.). Miebach also analyzes technical data, transforming them into visual and musical form (Miebach, n.d.). All of these artists explore the relationship between visual arts and other disciplines, combining them in unique collaborative ways.

Artists are also collaborating among themselves to produce bodies of work for social change, or to create awareness about a cause or creative idea. Rino Pizzi, a German born photographer, initiated a collaborative project that included sixteen female artists to question cultural norms of femininity through Mona Lisa's smile (Pizzi, n.d.). The group, 21 Artists, consists of many artists from different background to work together in transforming empty space, and spread creative culture throughout their community (21 Artists, n.d.). Similarly, a local artist

from Roanoke, Virginia, recently completed a collaborative totem totaling forty feet in height and including over 20 artists and interns (Glover, 2013). Assume video astro focus (avaf), another artist collective, pairs up two artists from different countries in collaboration efforts centering on the idea of information technology, and the ever growing systematic world in which we live (avaf, 2012). These collaborations produce work that implicates new meaning, simply because of the collaborative processes behind it.

On a global scale, collaboration and participatory projects are growing, and artists leading the way encourage public participation, including everyone in on the artistic process, and creating a worldwide creative network for anyone and everyone. Projects like *The Sketchbook Project* and *Artist Trading Cards* allow everyone to express the world through their own eyes, and would fail without public participation and collaboration (Art House Projects, 2013; ATC, 2013). Similar projects include *Combworks*, an avaf and art21 collaboration project, based on the public's participation in an online website, where the individual contributes to the collection by adding their own creativity to the process. *Puzzleworks*, developed by artist Tim Kelly, encourages the participation and collaboration among school age children, and not only advocates for individual artistry, but uses puzzle pieces as a symbol for part of a whole; that we as individual artists come together to create something more, something bigger than ourselves (Kelly, 2012). These projects span the globe, and with everything from mail art to the Global Peace Project (TheWhole9, 2013), the world is connecting and collaborating creatively in ways it never has before.

Collaboration is such an important part of the creative process, and with so many public art initiatives and projects, it is becoming easier and easier to create and become involved. This Collaboration is occurring in many different ways and on many different levels, and Scoop.it collection was developed to explore the many diverse ways humans collaborate creatively with their artwork, with each other, with the world.

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