An interlocking process of Choice-Based Art Education: collaboration among art teachers, artists and museums

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This presentation shares the teaching endeavors centered on CBAE using the creative competition at Tomato Art School (China) as an example. Teacher guidance and student exploration are the core of instruction; furthermore, we invite artists to join in and bring the artistic creation venue to a museum. This enhanced form of CBAE benefits not only the students, but also the teachers. Students can gain a holistic experience from self-exploration, creative conception, and practical communication with artists, as well as practicing art in a museum setting. Teachers are given the opportunity to converse and share experiences with artists, becoming more knowledgeable about museums and enriching their exhibition experience. In the future, teachers can engage students in deeper artistic works and offer more precise and practical guidance.

CBAE necessitates an interlocking system for support. Teachers need to be scaffolded and driven to bolster the development of students. The biggest challenge a teacher faces is how to treat students’ creative conception, appreciate their artistic behaviors, and transfer their ideas into real creations. Teaching artists, artists, museums and teachers become a collaborative support system that sustains teachers’ scaffolding instruction, and drives the learning artists’ motivation.

More elements in CBAE are needed to form an interlocking system. We suggest that aside from students, teachers also need to be scaffolded. This study offers a new attempt to construct an enhanced CBAE process and model.