

**International Collaborative Art Education Program Development Initiative:
Practical Cooperation between Overseas University Teachers and
Public Elementary Schools**

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Abstract

This study is a report on the “One minute Sculpture” program implemented for 6th graders at Higashi Kurume Second Elementary School in Tokyo during February and March, 2024. This study is part of a two-year program development project titled “International Cooperative Art Education Program Development: Cooperative Practice between Universities and Attached Schools and Overseas Universities” under the “Special Development Research Project for 2022 and 2023. In a multicultural society that is rapidly becoming more internationalized and globalized, it is important to foster international mutual understanding through education, and there is a need to create classes in collaboration with people outside the school (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). However, experiential learning in which students actually work with people who have valuable practical experience from overseas is rare. In this study, Ewa Berg, a senior lecturer at Malmö University, was invited as a guest teacher to create a sculpture work “One minute Sculpture” (Erwin Wurm, 2017) inspired by the work of Austrian artist Erwin Wurm. This activity is both performative and humorous, and elementary school students can be motivated to engage in it. We believe that collaborative and non-verbal visual communication will be promoted through the creation and appreciation of the artworks. The students were motivated to engage in the activity of making sculptures using their own bodies, which is a fresh activity not usually found in arts and crafts classes. As a result, the students were able to engage in the activity. They also enjoyed verbal and visual communication, such as introducing their work in simple English. The works intervened between students with language barriers and the instructor, which led to more active communication and empathetic understanding. In addition, the students were able to develop learning activities by using their own tablet computer, such as connecting with overseas teachers online and taking photos in creative ways. This shows that art, a visual and intuitive means of expression, is an effective educational method for promoting international exchange and understanding, and that the online method is also effective to a certain extent. In Japanese school education, where cross-cultural exchange and learning utilizing tablet computer are being promoted, the case studies in public schools in this study show the possibility of educational international exchange through art.

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Bio

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