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Art, Education, and the Bomb: Reflections on an International Children's Peace Mural Project

[Tom Anderson](#)

Abstract

As a community muralist (T. Anderson, 1985) and contextualist I believe that the purpose of art is communication from one human being to another about things that count (R. Anderson, 1990; Dissanayake, 1988; Lippard, 1990). This does not mean that we disregard the aesthetic component—the “wonder”—in an artwork. Rather, it implies that the aesthetic serves an extrinsic function beyond its supposed *raison d'être*. That function, which is usually both prosaic and symbolic, is to serve as a marker that in some way defines the people who make, use, and view artworks or aesthetically framed objects (R. Anderson, 1990). Art is something people do to give them a sense of themselves, both as a result of the product and the process. Thus, we may use artworks as vehicles for understanding human nature through their displayed visual qualities, the forming process, and their social context (T. Anderson, 1995). This paper follows from that premise. I will consider the reasons for the peace mural project, the processes involved, and the murals' compositions and stylistic qualities as manifestations and means of initial ingress toward understanding the cultures and people from which they arise. My belief is that peace rests on intercultural understanding and one way to approach such understanding is through art.

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Meet artist Huong, international renowned artist WHERE: Peace Mural. 1606 Washington Ave, Miami Beach FL 33139 WHEN: Saturday, JAN 11 till JAN 31 TORTURE – DOES IT REPRESENT AMERICAN VALUE? Miami: -The Peace Mural Foundation is proud to announce that the U.S. Torture Mural by huong, 8foot tall x 100foot long will be on displayed in Jan 10-20th. Daily hours:2-10pm We...See More. Jan 11, 2014. And that is saying something.War is a place where the stories of horror and the purely grotesque take place; Where the place a person was born is worth more than life itself.There is no holding back. There is no mercy....See More. Sep 17, 2013. The Peace Kids is a mural in Tel Aviv, Israel by Moodi Abdallah, Roman Kozhokin, Itai Froumin and Jonathan Kis-Lev. A copy of the work, which depicts Israeli Srulik and Palestinian Handala embracing one another, exists on the Israeli West Bank barrier and was created with the cooperation of local Palestinian artists. In 2013 Kis-Lev joined hands with three artists: Palestinian Moodi Abdallah, and Israeli Roman Kozhokin and Itai Froumin. Froumin helped Kis-Lev creating the final image of the embrace The project is conceived to encourage discourse and conversation around peace-building and ending conflict. It is an initiative of The VII Foundation, which was established in 2001 to challenge complex social, economic, environmental and human rights issues through documentary non-fiction storytelling and education. "When battlefield prowess and political manipulation are not enough to achieve peace through victory, we summon our best and brightest to negotiate an end; we celebrate peace settlements; and we give prizes, if not to victors, then to visionaries. We exalt peace as a human achievement