Art as a Mirror and Window on Cultural Diversity in South Korea: A critical analysis of artworks by three contemporary artists with implications for art education.

**Title:** Art as a Mirror and Window on Cultural Diversity in South Korea: A Critical Analysis of Artworks by Three Contemporary Artists with Implications for Art Education.

**Name(s):**
- Kang, Yoonjung, author
- Anderson, Tom, professor directing dissertation
- Henne, Carolyn, university representative
- Gussak, David, committee member
- Broome, Jeffrey, committee member
- Department of Art Education, degree granting department
- Florida State University, degree granting institution

**Type of Resource:** text

**Genre:** Text

**Issuance:** monographic

**Date Issued:** 2014

**Publisher:** Florida State University

**Place of Publication:** Tallahassee, Florida

**Physical Form:** computer online resource

**Extent:** 1 online resource

**Language(s):** English

**Abstract/Description:**
Today's societies are becoming ever more culturally diverse. A traditionally mono-cultural society, South Korea is in the midst of remarkably rapid changes that have made cultural diversity a widely discussed topic in education and many other fields. Though art educators in South Korea have adopted some of the longstanding multicultural approaches developed by other countries, cultural diversity issues in South Korean society must be examined in the context of the country's unique history and cultural values. Based on the assumption that art reflects life, this study used a pragmatically grounded contextual art criticism model to examine art dealing with cultural diversity by three South Korean contemporary artists whose work may function as a barometer of our social and cultural climate. For the data collection, the researcher takes a role as the critic and three artworks from each of the selected three artists were examined as research objects. The selection of works was based on an attempt to capture the major trends and styles in contemporary South Korean art.
artists were chosen as research objects. The works of the three participating artists were carefully and critically analyzed in their authentic context including document examination and personal interview. The critical analysis revealed several themes related to increased cultural diversity in South Korean society today: the influence of media on cultural understanding, a self-centered view of culture, less access to authentic traditional culture, missing the uniqueness and originality of local culture, generalization and prejudice vs. individuality, and multicultural groups in South Korean society. Though the role and the direction of the gaze may differ for each of the artists studied, all share the conviction that art can change society. Because art education is a means to this end, implications for art education are included for those who wish to meaningfully incorporate cultural diversity issues in South Korea classrooms. The findings of the study and their analysis point to the ways art can function as a mirror and window on today's culturally diverse societies in South Korea and many other places in the world.

Contemporary art is the art of today, produced in the second half of the 20th century or in the 21st century. Contemporary artists work in a globally influenced, culturally diverse, and technologically advancing world. Their art is a dynamic combination of materials, methods, concepts, and subjects that continue the challenging of boundaries that was already well underway in the 20th century. Diverse and eclectic, contemporary art as a whole is distinguished by the very lack of a uniform, organising principle, ideology, or “-ism”. Contemporary art is part of a cultural dialogue that concerns larger contextual frameworks such as personal and cultural identity, family, community, and nationality. View. 4 Recommendations. Start by marking “Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists’ Writings” as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Included here are texts that have become pivotal documents in contemporary art, along with writings that cover unfamiliar ground. Some are newly translated, others have never before been published. Together they address visual literacy, cultural studies, and the theoretical debates regarding modernism and postmodernism. I wanted something that would be soft on the eyes, and turn into a mirror if you polished it. The point is to see yourself reflected in the names. Also the mirror image doubles and triples the space.”—Maya Lin (1983). These three features are closely related. If diversity is not present, there is no need to be concerned with what people think about it and no need for governmental action. Although multiculturalism is sometimes thought to only refer to the presence of cultural diversity in a society, the second core element of multiculturalism (equitable participation) is equally important. A view of multiculturalism that considers only the existence of cultural diversity may lead to the emergence of separate cultural groups within a diverse society. Diversity without equal participation will lead to separati