

# „Rembrandt`s movie camera“



Our partners:  
Germany Greece  
Bulgaria Turkey  
Romania Italy

## OUR PROJECT IDEA

**We have two years to get to know each other, to start joint small film projects, to visit each other and to look at works of art according to the method of Bill Viola**

In our last Erasmus + Plus project we were with students in Italy and visited, among other things, Florence. After a visit to the Uffizi, students had free time for two hours. Jane and Mirko wanted to go to another exhibition. Bill Viola had a great retrospective in Florence and somehow we had heard of him and admired a video installation in another museum, but we really couldn't do anything with this American artist. To our great surprise, some students wanted to accompany us. Going to another exhibition after the Uffizi is crazy, but we didn't regret it. Here we got to know the oeuvre of an internationally successful artist who had created such creative and original works with his video installations that we did not come out of astonishment. Our students began in the exhibition, which was completely dark and presented the video art of Bill Viola on huge monitors, to stand in the movies, in front of the screens and to participate. That's when the idea for our next Erasmus + program was born! We wanted to use artworks by old masters as

templates to make short videos that should deal with the question: what happened in the moments just before and just after the snapshot of a picture. The painting is a momentary shot. It is rigid and without movement. In his video films in slowmotion Bill Viola shows these moments in motion. Actors reproduce the figures of the paintings. They have some typical details of the clothes without making a costume movie out of them. It's not about the 100% re-enactment of the painting, but about the emotions of the characters. We really wanted to try this method to explore with children the content of classic masterpieces! We wanted to deal with the great art of the old masters with methods of film.

We chose the name Rembrandt's movie camera for our project because Rembrandt symbolically exemplifies the old masters. What would Rembrandt have done if he had had a camera?



Our Erasmus + project started in September 2018. Before, we had searched for new partner schools and decided that we wanted to work together with two partners from our last project. There are students from 10 to 12 years involved in the project. Our goal is for students to increase their motivation to learn, to improve their ability to work as a team, and to enhance their knowledge of local history, geography, art and music through the use of innovative teaching methods. We also want them to recognize the importance of speaking and learning a foreign language and helping them to understand other people and their cultures across Europe. Bill Viola's method should help us to reinterpret works of art from bygone times.

# 1ST MEETING - ISTANBUL 2018



## The first meeting with teachers took place in October 2018 in Istanbul

Not all the teachers of the project had met in person yet. When planning an Erasmus + project, you are looking for partners on a website called etwinning. You have to introduce yourself and the school and the project idea, then schools from all over Europe come forward. You choose the partners and start developing a program together with them. Then we wrote an application and hoped that this application would be accepted. Then a project can start. Through the Erasmus + program we receive the money we need for the travel and the realization of our project idea. Of course we write our application in English! The joy was great with all partners when we learned that our project can start. But until now the teachers only knew each other via e-mail, Skype and Facebook. It's not so easy to communicate on social networks if you've never met in person. So the teachers went to Istanbul with great expectations. There we were received so warmly in the school, as we had already experienced in Turkey during other trips. We got to know each other, talked about

our further activities and visited besides the lessons, many museums and sights. Istanbul is a vibrant, colourful city, cosmopolitan and in constant motion. We speak of 19 million inhabitants and we were glad that no one of us was lost. Activities for the next two years:

### Traveling with students to:

Germany, Italy, Bulgaria, Romania, Crete

### Joint activities:

- Logo competition
- Short film about your own school
- PowerPoint on National Artworks & Artists
- 1st short film after Bill Viola "Our Artwork"
- 9-5-2019 Europe Day "Art"
- PowerPoint "Our favorite European artwork"
- 2nd short after Bill Viola "Our Favorite European Artwork"
- Collage on Old Masterpieces in Modernism
- Christmas cards from artworks
- 3. Short film after Bill Viola
- Production of an art calendar
- 3. Short film after Bill Viola's "One painting different views"
- film presentations in large graduation exhibitions in each country
- 9-5-2020 Europe Day "Art"
- film presentations in large graduation



## A second trip with students took place in November 2018

The first student-workshop week should take place in Germany. Here, the students lived in host families and the hosts organised a variety of activities. So everyone was forced to communicate in English. We started with a Welcome- Party at school on Sunday. We danced together Balfolk and had a great buffet. During the week we did some trips to Schwerin to the museum, where we organised a guided tour and various workshops. It turned out that the work in front of the original paintings was particularly serious, as if the spirit of the old masters had just been waiting to slip into vivid imagery. We deposited a selection of costumes and props in front of the paintings, which the performers could choose. Then the performers had to come up with a story about the scene on the painting and then present it. This work was action-oriented and open-minded, so that many variants were possible. The groups then moved from painting and costume stack to the next and recorded their short scenes with mobile phones and tripods. This minimal equipment is sufficient for our project, since most mobile phones have a good resolution and the possibility for slow-motion shots.

We also visited various artist studios in Schwerin. A trip to Berlin took us to the Museum of Roman / Greek Antiquities. At the school in Hagenow, the children participated in various workshops, pottery, produced cinematic documentation and made games. They also took part in class, with learning in cross-group groups, no school bell, no grades and many action-oriented offers for the guests a special experience. At the end of the week the festival of lights took place in school. The first short film results in museum and our documentation of the activities are good results to show that our project idea will work. We use the film's nonverbal language capabilities and interpret the Old Masters in the museums in a profoundly creative way



## GERMANY TRAVEL. IN NOVEMBER 2018



## A second trip with students took place in April 2019

The second workshop week for students was to take place in Lucca. All partners brought more students than originally planned. So we were a big group, which does not facilitate the organisation. Nevertheless, all students were housed with host families and experienced from the beginning a boisterous mood in many joint actions and excursions. Pisa and Florence were explored and visited a number of interesting museums. The Italian partner school consists of several small schools spread across the countryside and it was very interesting for everyone to see how familiar and quiet the atmosphere in these small schools can be. Our big Erasmus + group took part in many competitions, such as a scavenger hunt in the city or sports activities. Special features in the school system, such as school uniforms or timetables and holiday periods were registered by the guest students. Colloquial language in the group was English and the best experience for the children was that they could communicate. The first project results were evaluated in the team meetings.

It would be desirable if we could establish a personal contact with Bill Viola. His method is extremely suitable for working with children in the classroom and all partners have had their first good experiences. Collaboration with the museums where the paintings are found is quite different, but at least the children cross the threshold to the museum with a new motivation. Bill Viola should know about it. In the coming weeks, the ties between the students, the teachers, the host families and the schools will be further developed and expanded. The work of the teachers, who have to organise a workshop week, should not be underestimated.



## ITALY TRIP IN APRIL 2019

