

Knowledge and imagination
Abstract of doctoral thesis
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The topic of my doctoral thesis is justified by my own experience both as a drawing teacher and an artist. In both fields of life I invariably encounter the excitement, difficulty and fascination that emerge between the design and the finished product in the process of creation. My sketchbooks are an integral part of my work as an artist, and drawing belongs to my everyday life as a teacher. I have chosen the ethos of drawing as the central idea of my thesis because it is the common denominator for all visual artists and designers.

- Drawing incorporates all the spiritual values that mankind during its cultural history of self-estimation and self-interpretation has condensed into a spatial system. The history of drawing runs parallel with the history of human race, consequently the latter can be represented and visualized by the former.

- Drawing is a basic human activity, it is so compact and flexible and lends itself to so many applications that it is worth examining as a language spanning over ages, cultures, professions and genres: a language that acts as a common denominator in communication, an expression of art, a visual idea, a means of expressing and recording thoughts, information carrier, etc.

- If we study the fine arts of modern age concentrating on the correlations between the design and realization of a given piece of art, we may discover interesting relationships, which, through their recurrent patterns, embody various types reflecting the variety and richness of the language of graphic art.

- The complex knowledge and expertise underlying a high standard of drawing ability can only be attained by teaching complementary disciplines like spatial studies, anatomy and the theory of colours. An advanced visual culture presupposes knowledge in these fields of study as they form the basis of the modern conventions of vision.

- The expertise in the system of perspective is a sine qua non of the freedom of representation. A thorough knowledge of the interrelationship of the various colours influences every aspect of our life. These skills, together with the deep awareness of the structure and proportions of human body, are essential and indispensable for every artist and designer because the relationships of space, colours and human proportions have a direct influence on the scale, dimensions and colour of the designed object or building.

- Consequently, if we want to teach these subjects efficiently, we should deal with them in their complexity, referring to their history and the relationships between them.

- In my thesis I have attempted to examine the relationship between sketch and the finished product in my own creative practice; to show the connection between design and its realization, and how the finished work of art becomes inspiration for an ensuing process of artistic creation.