Korean Artists in Transcultural Spaces: Constructing New National Identities

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Reaching out to a diversity of socio-cultural contexts and specificities: 2.1 Global citizenship, cultural identities and arts education

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In the postcolonial era, Korean artists are educated abroad, and they routinely produce and exhibit their artworks in international art world. Their transcultural artworks reflect existing Korean identities while simultaneously building new Korean identities. This phenomenon of hybrid identity-production has not been studied. In order to understand the ways transcultural Korean artists maintain, extend, and build new conceptions of Korean identity through their artworks, this study examines contemporary Korean visual artists who have been educated abroad, who currently work outside of Korea, and who exhibit and perform their works internationally. Consequently, the goal of this research is to examine the dynamic processes of identity-shaping in the transcultural settings, to examine emerging artwork-based hybrid identities, and to interpret the meaning and consequences of these emerging Korean cultural identities for Korean and international audiences. These findings have significant importance for teaching strategies in globalized multicultural 21st century.