



Art As Extraordinary Science: A Paradigm for the 21st Century

By Jenny Waller

PRESS RELEASE

An accessible and enlightening guide explaining the powerful role of art as a taught subject, its connection with science teaching, and the need to respect its place in academic circles.

"This articulation makes an original and significant contribution to the current literature on teaching and learning practices in the creative arts."

**Professor Bruce Brown, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research,
University of Brighton**

Art education has gone through a number of paradigms since its origins in the medieval guilds. Yet ever since joining the university system in the 1970s, art departments have struggled to articulate a contemporary paradigm which accurately reflects what they do, to the extent that it often seems more realistic to say that art can't be taught at all. At the same time, science

departments have struggled with the problem first noted by science historian Thomas Kuhn in 1962 – that the history of science depends on the creative brilliance of 'extraordinary scientists' who yet have no place within the confines of traditional university teaching. In **Art As Extraordinary Science: A Paradigm For The 21st Century** Waller proposes her solution to this long-standing quandary by not only explaining the powerful role of art at the university, but also showing its relevance to the science disciplines.

Divided into three sections, the book starts by setting the theoretical scene arguing that both these problems result from our assumptions about what counts as education. Taking the axes of Articulation and Acceptance by the University Disciplines, she creates a grid-matrix of educational assumptions resulting in the quadrants Professional Practice, Normal Science, Extraordinary science and Voodoo. Next Waller applies the historical perspective, describing in detail the traditional paradigms of art education: the Medieval workshop, the Renaissance academy, the Classroom, the Masterclass and the Modernist studio. Finally, Waller applies her theories to her findings from a year-long ethnographic study of Fine Art studio teaching in a university department, convincingly demonstrating how contemporary art teaching fits into the quadrant of Extraordinary science, providing a powerful contemporary paradigm for what art educators do.

Art As Extraordinary Science: A Paradigm For The 21st Century is an enriching and informative key text, as well as a real labour of love, which provides a blueprint to other disciplines to teach more creatively and to ensure art departments finally take their rightful place in our academic institutions. The perfect read for educationalists and academic leaders as well as art students and lovers.

About the author: Since completing her PhD in Fine Art at Reading in 2014, Jenny Waller is currently developing her practice as a textile artist based in Frome, Somerset. She is also responsible for educational development at the not-for-profit organisation The Simplification Centre. Previously Waller achieved an MBA at Cranfield University after which she moved to Coventry University as head of Graphic Communication before transferring to the private sector as a change communications consultant. In this role she helped to develop change communications and training materials for clients including: Guinness, British Steel and DHL. Previously, Jenny worked in secondary education as an English teacher and head of a Sixth Form in Daventry, Northants. Waller was co-author of *The Quality Management Manual* (Kogan Page, 1993) and *The TQM Toolkit* (Kogan Page, 1995). **Art As Extraordinary Science: A Paradigm For The 21st Century** by Jenny Waller (published by Clink Street Publishing 28th July 2016) is available to purchase from online retailers and to order from all good bookstores.

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