

A Very Special Day at Käthe-Kollwitz-School in Leverkusen

On Culture Day the pupils of Käthe Kollwitz Secondary School do something on the subject of culture. Often, they go to the museum, visit art exhibitions or they pick the artist simply by themselves and invite him/her to school. So did the class 11 recently!

On 06/02/2014 two artists came from Villa Zündfunke to our school with the intention of bringing us closer together as a team. For this, they worked out a project, which should encourage and require the creativity and teamwork of the students.

Out of almost 100 pupils, four teams were formed. These teams had the task to create a portrait (2x1,6 meter) of the artist and human rights activist Käthe Kollwitz.

First of we were told something about her life. Second, our great school is named after her. We learned that Käthe Kollwitz was a socially engaged artist from Berlin, who had lost her son in the First World War. Driven by grief and anger about the war she drew anti - violence images. Unfortunately, she died a few days before the end of the Second World War.

Thereafter the artists Winfried Becker (www.kompakt-consulting.de) and Andreas Baschek (www.kunst-portal-baschek.de) explained to us how to proceed now. First we had to abrade the four large wooden plates and coat them with clear lacquer.

Then the portrait of Käthe Kollwitz, that we were to work on, was shown to us. Subsequently, each group was given the task to shoot pictures with our mobile phones outside in order to map various colors, patterns and structures.

These images were collected and while the images were printed, we all ate pizza together. After lunch, we went to work. The printed images were then torn into small shreds and glued at the appropriate places. In order to create a good image, it was necessary to liaise with each other. This gave rise to get in touch with students, who we never knew of before. Often it was very funny and a sticky affair.

Finally, four artistically creative and abstract portraits came together. A jury was summoned, to evaluate our portraits, based on certain criteria. In a small ceremony with music and good vibes, the winners were honored. The group with the most abstract image won a visit to the cinema.

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