



# EDUCATION THROUGH LOCAL ARTISTIC HERITAGE

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# European Reference Framework

## 8 key competencies

- • Communication in the mother tongue
- • Communication in foreign languages
- • Mathematical competence and basic competencies in science and technology
- • Digital competence
- • Learning to learn
- • Social and civic competencies
- • Initiative and entrepreneurship
- • Cultural awareness and expression

# How about...



- Communication in any language involves the art of writing – as literature or as calligraphy – the social and civic competencies involve **the sense of identity** and **the art of conversation**, that may be developed only on cultural basis.

# Culture

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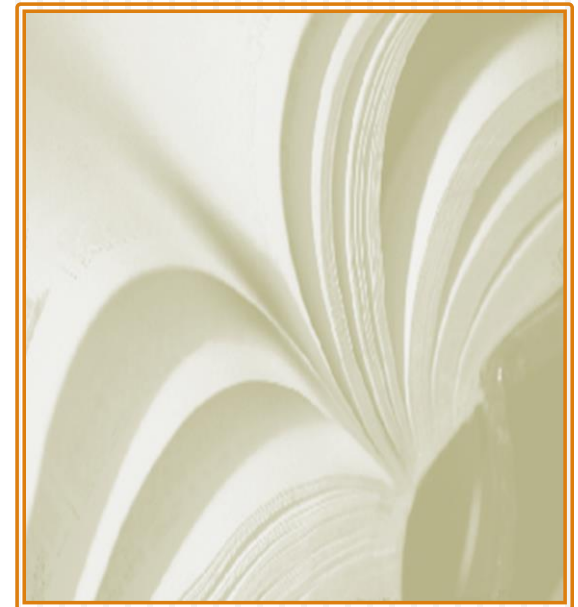
- **Culture** is a word that comes from Cicero's concept of *cultura animi* (cultivation of the soul), and it may be viewed as a capacity of understanding yourself, the others and the world (or the Universe).

# Heritage

- **Cultural heritage** is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group/society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes:
  - - tangible culture - buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artifacts,
  - - intangible culture - folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge, and
  - - natural heritage (including culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity).

# The “foreign language” of Art

- One of the ways to achieve culture is by learning to become “literate” in art. Peter Greenaway considers that in a world full of images, we are visually illiterate.
- Actually, we forgot to decipher the messages encrypted in symbols.



# Look around you

- We are surrounded by aesthetic stimuli and most of us don't perceive them. We live in a world we don't actually "see" – our own town or neighbourhood. In order to get the messages around us, we have to read them first – **a grammar of the art**, or an instruction manual is necessary to set a scale of aesthetic values. I see what I want to see, and art becomes art if only I perceive it.

# The grammar we forgot

- The basic elements of artistic expressions are learned in school – the point, the line, the spot – composition, and the techniques and the ways of combining them in order to create the feeling of space are studied for years, from the very beginning.
- What happens with all this knowledge when we look around us? Being accustomed with the surroundings is like going blind...
- Where all this information goes?



Looking at the local artifacts may be  
“the cure”....



# How to learn to see



- To fully develop, human being has to use all its capacities. Education should take into account that the need for identity, freedom, creation is fulfilled only using all senses, and processing the associated inputs. A strong personal development is possible by having access to the history of aesthetics, to personal contact with cultural goods, and by “consuming” and processing those goods as a **food for thought** in deeper approaches that concern philosophy, ethics, science, and social behavior.

# Aesthetics in your back yard

- There is a real need for interdisciplinary study – **history** can get valuable help from the study of artistic styles and costumes, **mathematics** finds an application in the concept of beauty, **physics** may support the **theory of colours** and **music**. The **chemistry** of well being, of identity, and the **science** of joy of the world we live in is transmitted and explained through works of art. But we need to be guided **to become sense-literate**, to unwrap the gift of meaning and to find our place and purpose in the Universe.



# A sad story



**Monument Istoric**  
**Monument Historique**  
**Historic Monument**

**Ansamblul Monumental "Calea Eroilor"**  
**L'Ensemble Monumental "L'Avenue des Héros"**  
**Monumental Ensemble "Avenue of the Heroes"**

**Grădina Publică**  
**Le Jardin Publique**  
**The Public Garden**

**ALEEA SCAUNELOR**  
**L'ALLÉE DES SIÈGES**  
**THE STOOLS' ALLEY**

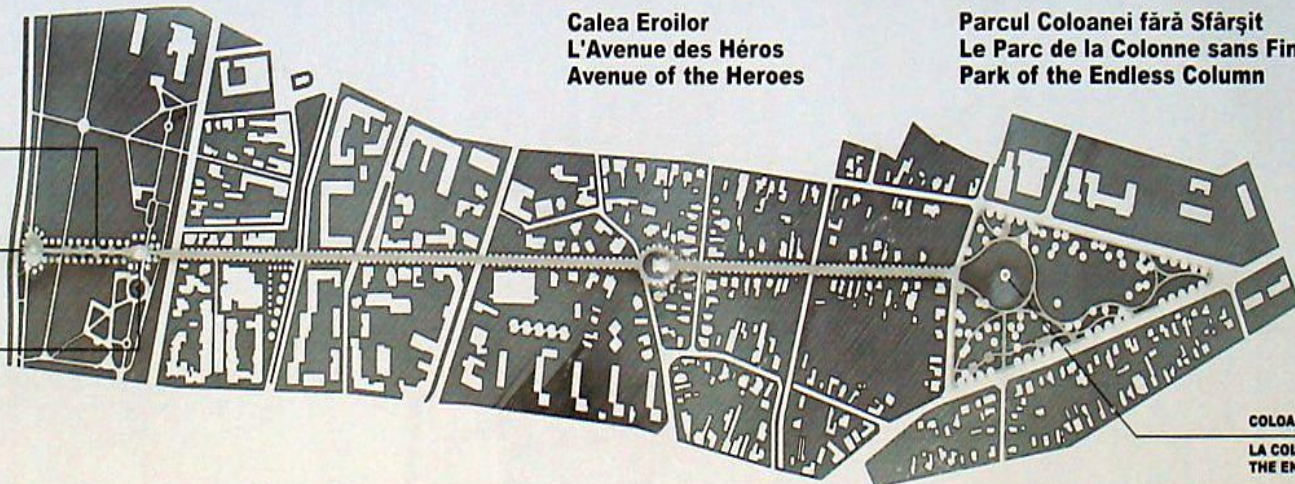
**MASA TĂCERII**  
**LA TABLE DU SILENCE**  
**TABLE OF SILENCE**

**POARTA SĂRUTULUI**  
**LA PORTE DU BAISER**  
**THE GATE OF KISS**

**Calea Eroilor**  
**L'Avenue des Héros**  
**Avenue of the Heroes**

**Parcul Coloanei fără Sfârșit**  
**Le Parc de la Colonne sans Fin**  
**Park of the Endless Column**

**COLOANA FĂRĂ SFÂRȘIT**  
**LA COLONNE SANS FIN**  
**THE ENDLESS COLUMN**



# The Idea

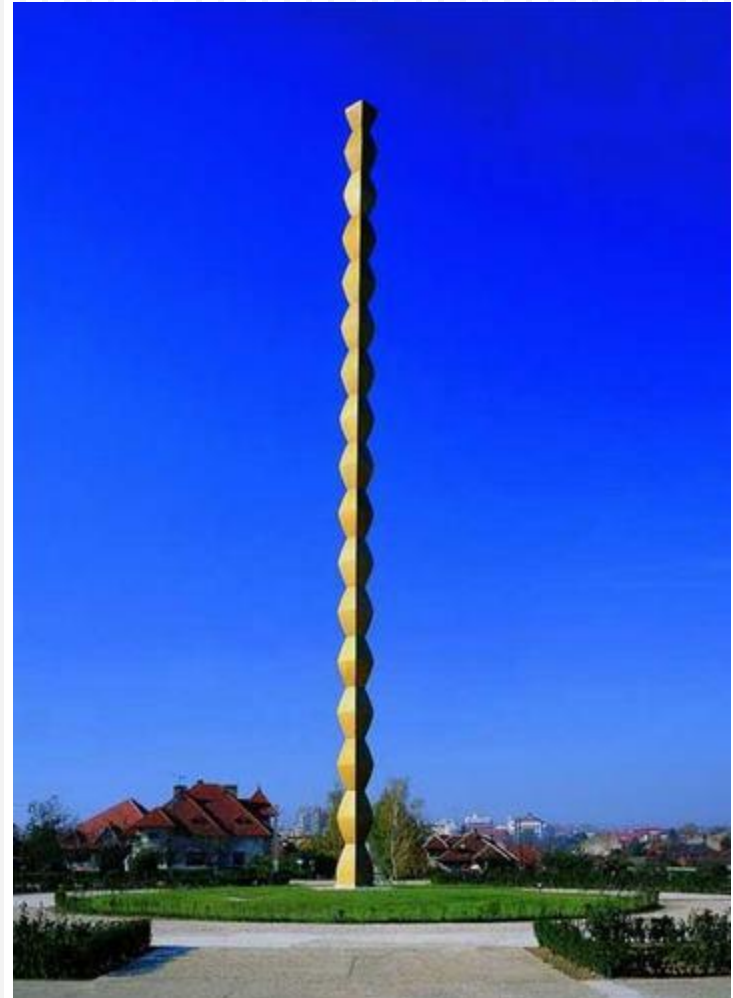


# Mocking the sacred symbols

- Author: Constantin Brâncuși
- 1937 – 1938, 8 km
- The monumental ensemble was realized to honor the soldiers of Gorj who died in the first WW
- The souls of the heroes enter the Gate of the Last Kiss, then walk on their way to the Column of the Endless thanksgiving. On their way to the river that helps them pass to the other world, they stop for a while to share a moment of silence around a table with 12 seats. Brâncuși use the church erected in this way as a part of the monument.
- As a consequence of art illiteracy, the axis Brâncuși conceived as the backbone of the monument is “broken” by a railway and some blocks of flats. The river is no longer a river, so the souls of the heroes end in a lake that goes nowhere.
- Now, the happily married couples of the town make their vows under the Gate of the Kiss – they don’t know the meaning of this artifact – it is a sarcophagus – and the kiss is, actually, the last kiss for someone who leaves this world...



# The lost meanings



# “Personal” solutions





# This project belongs to an architect...



# Art is for everyone

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This Conference - The Future of Education - is the opportunity to suggest a new approach of art not only as an expression for the gifted, but as an interdisciplinary field, for everybody.

There is a real need for aesthetic education and for implementing in the curricula those activities that allow a balanced development and the access to beauty and harmony.