# InSEA 2017 (Short version for oral presentation):

*1.*  ***Jodi*** *(Introductions) (note: The 1st slide of the Powerpoint should remain on thoughout parts 1, 2, and 3 of our presentation)*

Welcome. My name is Jodi Tomboulian. I am an art teacher at The Epiphany School of Global Studies, and a Graduate Student at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, USA. And my co-presenter is Dr. Alice Arnold, Professor of Art at East Carolina University, in Greenville, NC. Together we are presenting on Peace through Art Education.

There is a great need for peace education especially in a world that is full of violence.

***2. Dr. Arnold:***

My focus is on how technology can impact a child adversely—in effect stealing their inner peace. Recently, a large national study from the Kaiser Foundation found that the average time 8-18 years olds spend “on screen” **each day** is 7 hours and 38 minutes. The 7.38 hours each day is shared between the computer/phones/TV viewing/ gaming, etc.

Young children use many social media platforms that can lead to cyber-bullying, depression, and poor performance in school. The long term effects correlate heavy doses of aggressive media viewing in childhood with aggressive behavior 10 to 20 years later.

Personality changes were also found – long term changes in the way we process information and relate to the world. The personality changes are **not positive** – and have effects on social adjustment and one’s ability to interact with family members, peers, and co-works.

This somewhat recent phenomenon of heavy on-line behavior leaves children very little time for more traditional childhood activities, such as art, music, dance, gymnastics, sports or just exploring the outdoor world. Research on children’s learning suggests that when children plan their own play, they use the frontal lobe of the brain. They become more engaged and creative. We believe that creative art activities can also develop the child’s sense of inner peace

When one considers the vast beauty of the earth and all the real-life adventures that are available – participating in or observing the creative arts, group sports, scouting, hiking, wilderness adventure, travel with youth groups or family, Peace Corps and Vista, volunteer work - serving those in the community that are less fortunate. We must question the time spent with redundant, non-creative activities, and potentially destructive activities that can be found in the misuse of technology.

Many of the technological advances of the 20th and 21st Centuries are **spectacular**. But, we must be aware of the dangers involved in the misuse of technology—especially when it concerns our children.

There is a need for our students—our children—to explore their inner voice and develop ideas that lead to peace and understanding. Peace education is needed in our increasingly violent world. Art education can allow students to explore, develop, and share their message of peace with the world.

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*3. Jodi:*

The concept of peace education has changed through the years from anti-war to a more personal focus on inner peace. Still, today, when you ask students to define peace and what peace means to them they often respond with peace means **“no war.”** However, if you ask students to define peace in terms of what it is—rather than, **what it is not**, then another meaning of peace becomes apparent. Peace comes from within. For students, art can become a vehicle to develop inner peace and a powerful expressive tool to create a more peaceful world.

In my classes, I have been working with students on the need for inner peace. While exploring, researching, and creating works of art about peace, students are developing their own ideas and feelings (Anderson, 2009). By integrating peace into the art curriculum, students recognize how to use their art work and artist’s statements to inform others about their message of peace to the world. Art is a powerful communication tool.

*4 Jodi*

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

(Last slide: Sharing of website address)

*5. Dr. Arnold*

**In addressing fundamental human concerns, such as the need for peace, students are given an opportunity to use their art work as an expressive tool and to conclude that their artwork can make a powerful statement making a positive difference in the world.**

Are there any questions?

# References

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