### The Power of Images

Images / representations of 'nature' in European imageries
How to deal with misleading concepts

# What are Misleading Concepts?

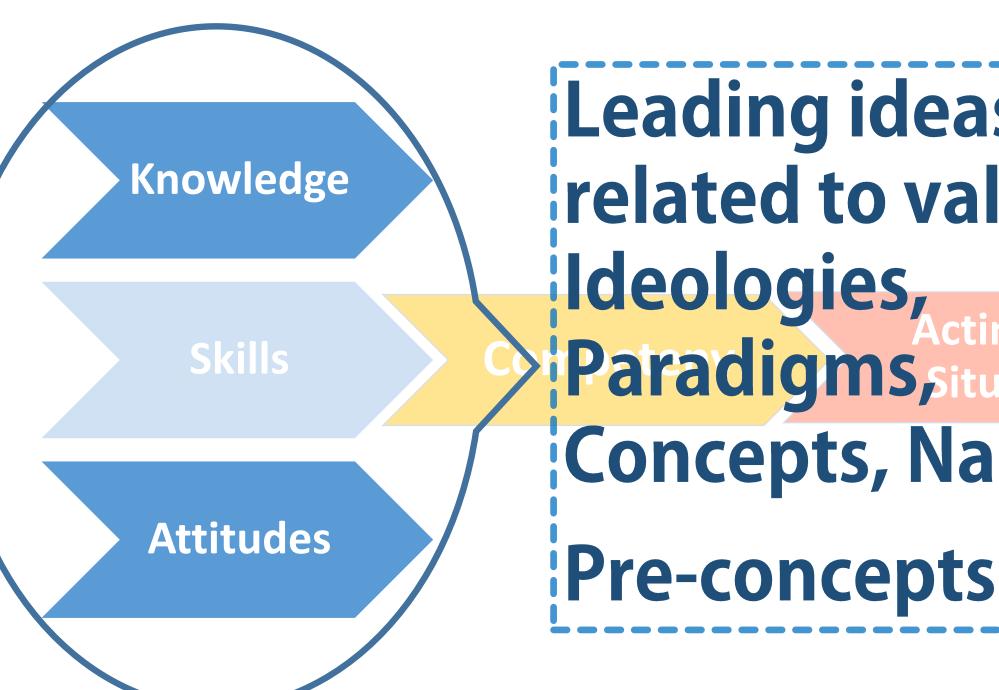
Knowledge

**Skills** 

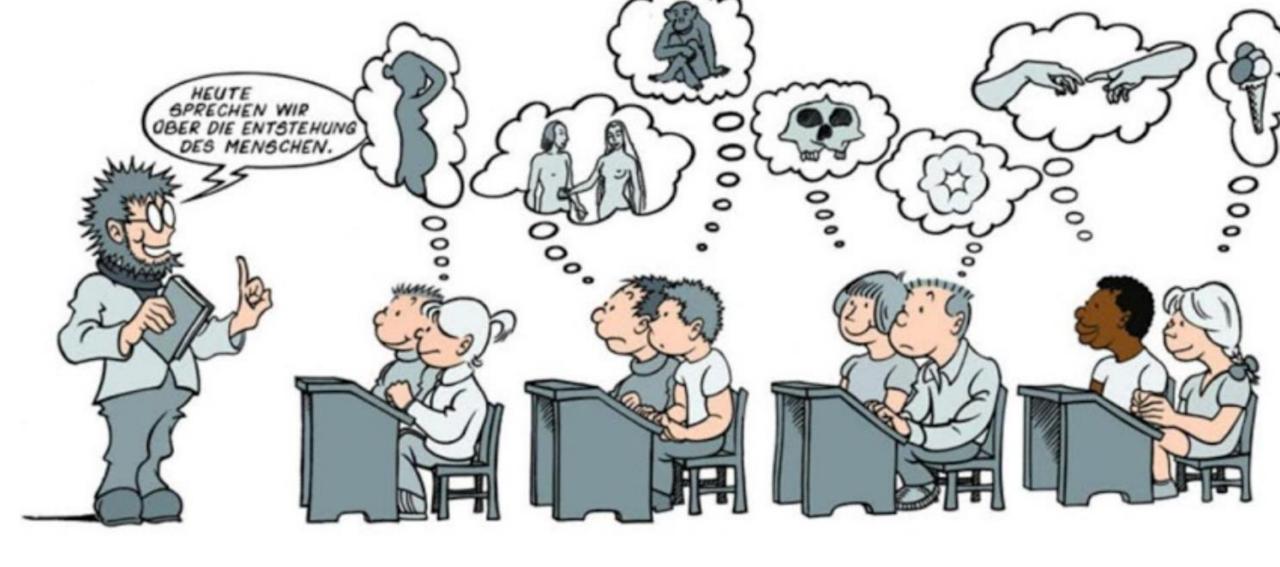
Competency

Acting in a Situation

**Attitudes** 



Leading ideas related to values: Ideologies,
Acting in a
Paradigms, Situation Concepts, Narratives



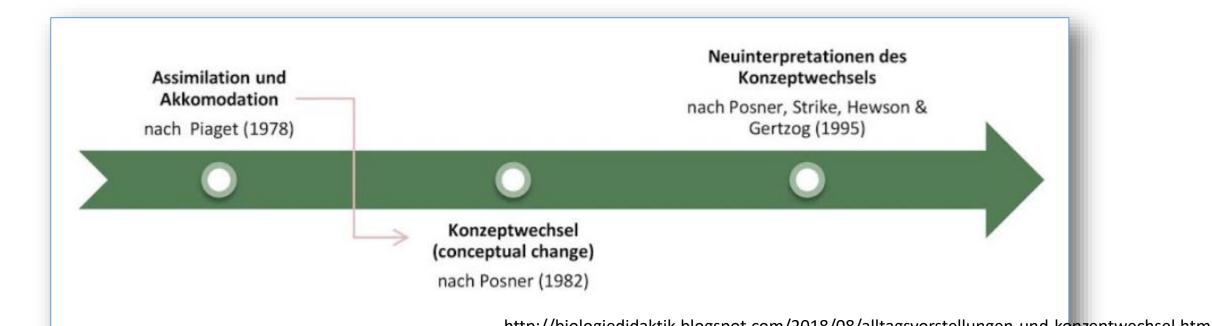
Teacher talking to his students about the origin of mankind

### **Pre-concepts**

**Definition**: wrong, but powerful knowledge or attitudes

**Base:** everyday experience and / or collective convictions (often introduced through images) linked with emotions, embodied

One can change pre-concepts through **assimilation** (you adapt what doesn't fit to your way of understanding, to the already existing structures) or **accomodation** (change of one's attitudes, knowledge, understanding [concepts] - including unlearning)



## Examples of pre-concepts in German curricula, textbooks, media



#### Die Schülerinnen und Schüler ...

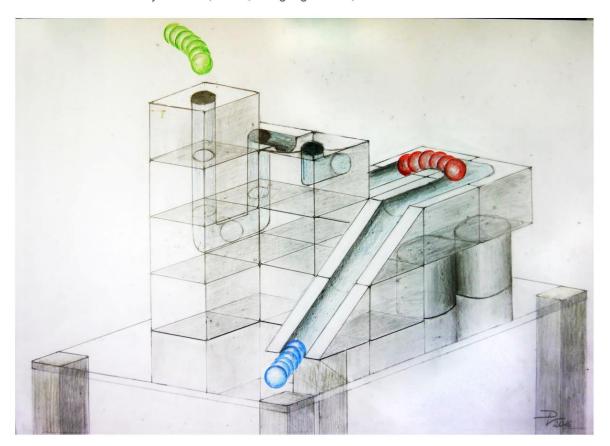
- setzen zeichnerisch die Gesetzmätkeiten der Zentralperspektive ein, um eigene Seherfahrungen realitätsbezogen in ihren Bildern wiederzugeben.
- nehmen Materialeigenschaften und Volumina von Gegenständen differenziert wahr und bilden diese zeichnerisch, malerisch oder plastisch ab, um ihr Gestaltungsrepertoire zu erweitern.
- untersuchen bildnerisch und sprachlich Werke der Renaissance unter dem
  Aspekt der Raumdarstellung im Vergleich mit mittelalterlichen Darstellungen.
  So nehmen sie den Wandel des Welt- und Menschenbildes im Zusammenhang
  mit dem veränderten Bildverständnis der Neuzeit wahr.

  Age: 14 years old

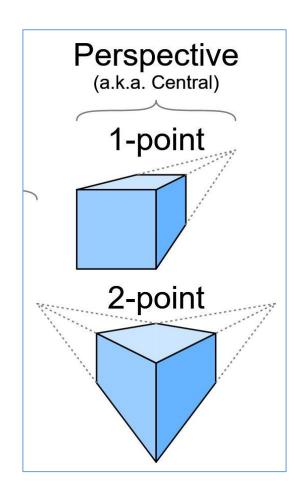
nutzen ikonografische Kenntnisse zur Beschreihung und Entschlüsselung

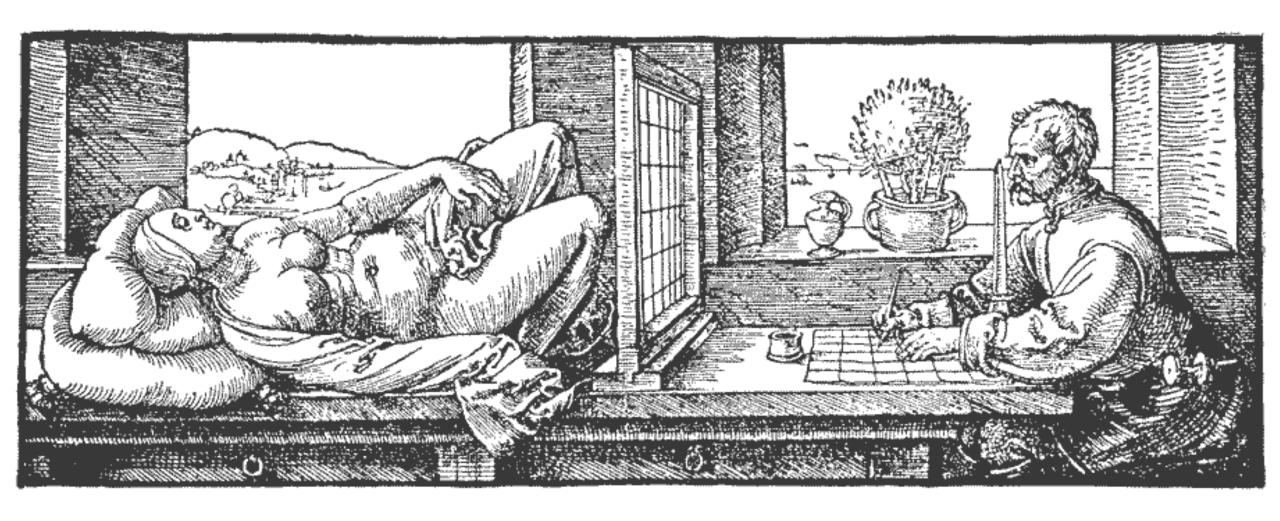
Students are able to use the means of linear perspective (central perspective) according to its principles (rules) in order to represent their experience of perception of reality

Gymnasium, Kunst, Jahrgangsstufe 7, Raum im Bild

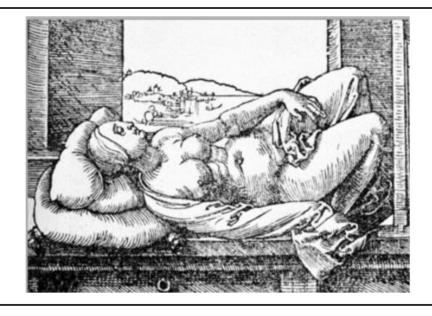


Umsetzung in einer strengen, geometrischen Bildkomposition. Die Idee passt gut zur Aufgabe und die Regeln der Perspektive werden ziemlich genau beachtet.





Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528): *The Draughtsman of the Reclining Nude,* probably between 1525 and 1528. Woodcut on paper. 7.5 × 21.5 cm





Woman: naked and thus "timeless", with closed eyes and dual spatial orientation (at the viewer and towards the draughtsman).

Man: dressed and armed with a dagger, watching closely, focused on the woman lying in front of him.

Woman: In her passivity she has a powerful presence in the picture; lying down she is the subject (**object**) of the emerging drawing.

Man: actively engaged, sitting, acting, individual **subject**, drawing the object on paper

In the window free, animated nature with architectural elements and trees

In the window reduced nature (domesticated, cultivated little tree in a pot), background strongly reduced

### Examples of pre-concepts in German curricula

Learning the principles of linear perspective (that are very attractive for the students of this age) in an affirmative way means that they are learning pre-concepts, like:





- Dividing subject object
- Dichotomy human (culture) nature
- A specific construction of gender
- Right wrong

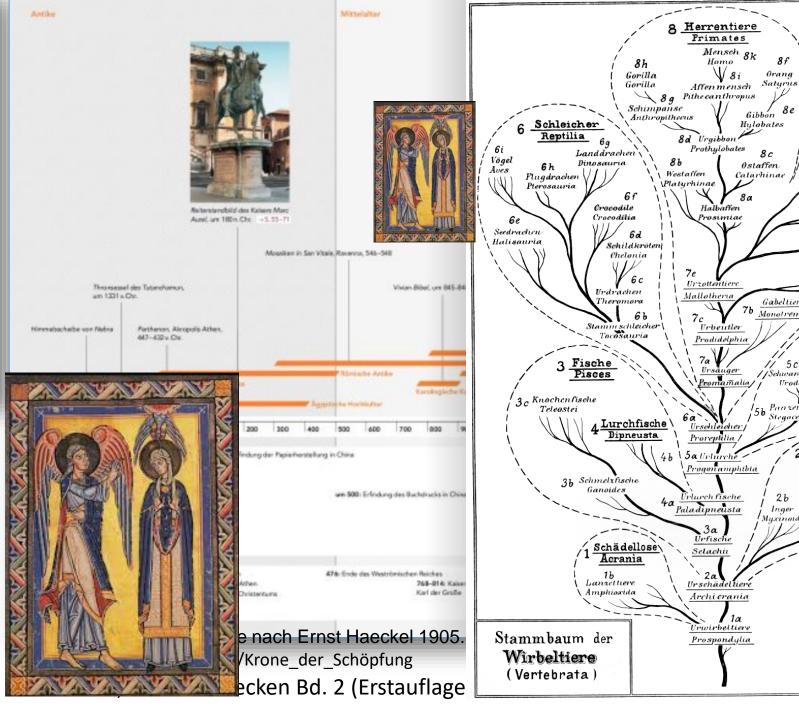
#### Die Schülerinnen und Schüler ...

- setzen zeichnerisch die Gesetzmäßigkeiten der Zentralperspektive ein, um eigene Seherfahrungen realitätsbezogen in ihren Bildern wiederzugeben.
- nehmen Materialeigenschaften und Volumina von Gegenständen differenziert wahr und bilden diese zeichnerisch, malerisch oder plastisch ab, um ihr Gestaltungsrepertoire zu erweitern.
- untersuchen bildnerisch und sprachlich erke der Renaissance unter dem Aspekt der Raumdarstellung im Verglicht mit mittelalterlichen Darstellungen.
   So nehmen sie den Wandel des Welt- und Menschenbildes im Zusammenhang mit dem veränderten Bildverständnis der Neuzeit wahr.
- nutzen ikonografische Kenntnisse zur Reschreihung und Entschlüsselung

Students are able to compare the representation of space in art works from Renaissance on the one hand and the Middle Ages on the other. They understand this development in respect to the changing concepts / notions of the world and mankind at that time.







Säugetiere

Mammalia

Fledertiere

.Cetacea

Chiroptera

Lurche Amphibia

I. Schädellose Acrania 1

II. Schädeltiere. Craniota.

II. A. Rundmäuler, Cyclostoma. 2

B1. Anamnia 3 - 5 B2. Amniota 6 - 8

II.B. Kiefermäuler, Gnathostoma

Froschlurche

Batraehia

Rundmäuler

Cyclostoma

Petromyxontes

2c Pricken

Huftiere

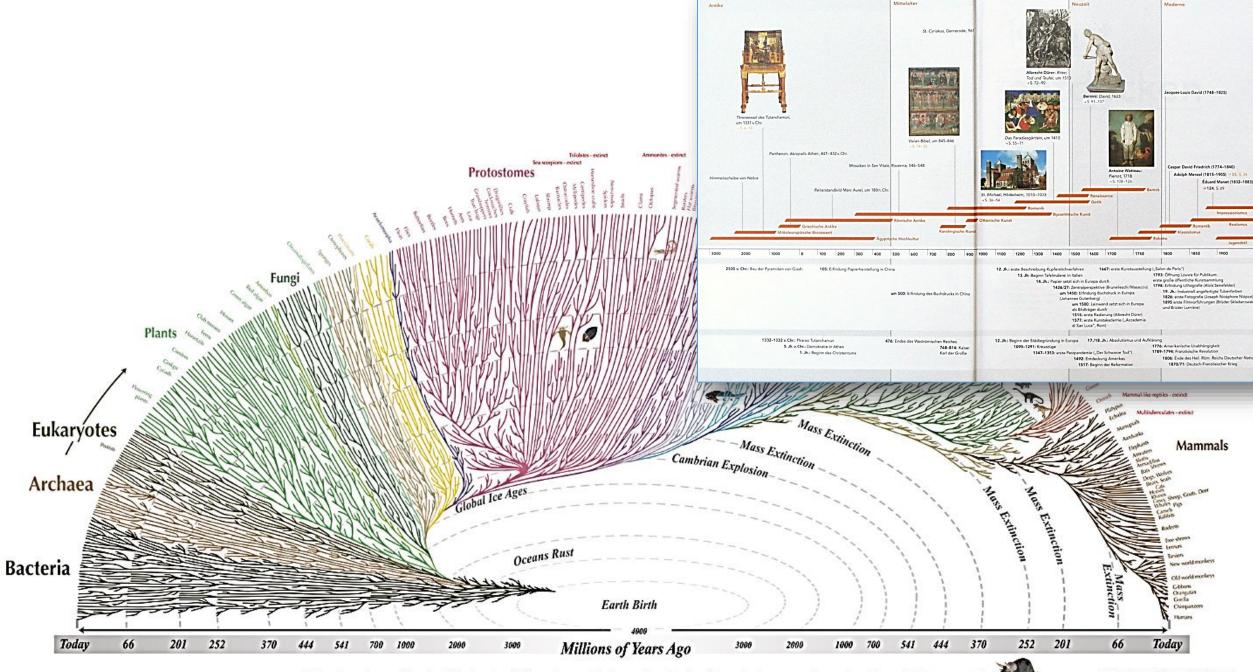
Ungulata

7g Nagetiere Rodentia

7h Insectenfresser

Insectivora

7d Beuteltiere



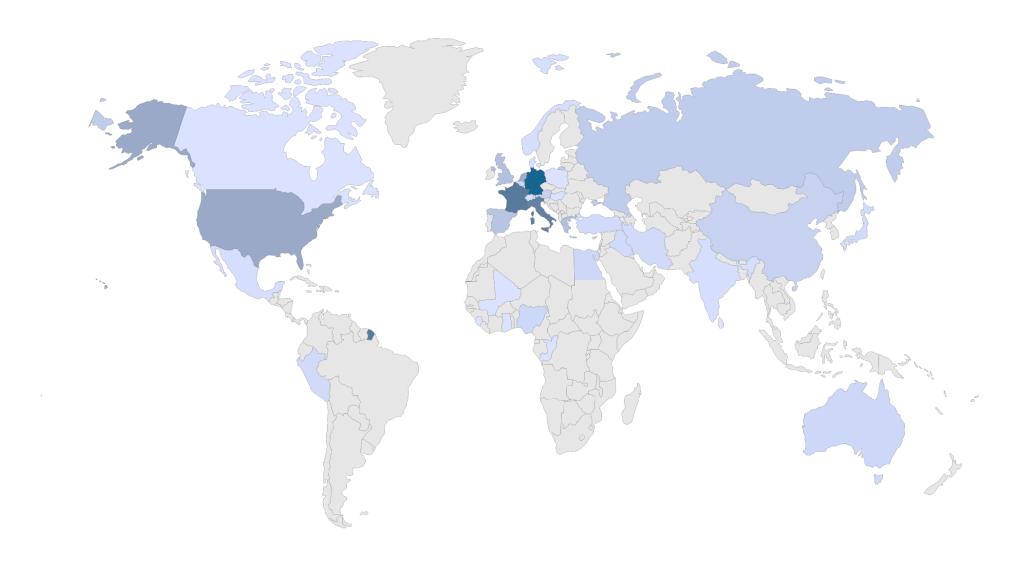
## Examples of pre-concepts in German curricula, textbooks, media

Learning art history in an affirmative way means that they are learning preconcepts, like:

- Juxtaposition Middle Ages Renaissance
- Linear development
- Development as progress
- Goal: Modernity
- Evolution of art: modern art as the "crown"

## Examples of pre-concepts in German curricula, textbooks, media

Learning Eurocentrism



Europe: 314

- Turkey (Istanbul) 3

**Americas: 32** 

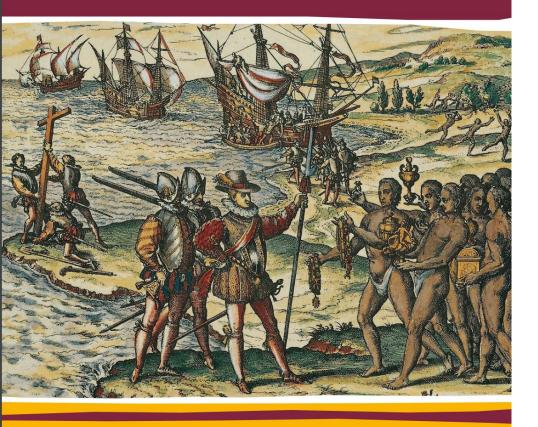
**Asia: 18** 

Africa: 12

Australia: 7

#### The Eurocentric Canon

"Where are the artworks from?" Analysis of a German text book "KUNST-Bildatlas" 2007



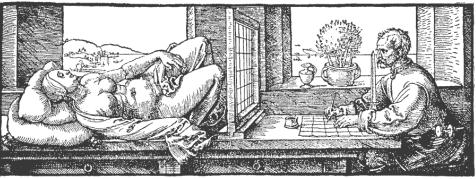
#### Frühe Entdecker – Unterrichtsservice

zeitreise



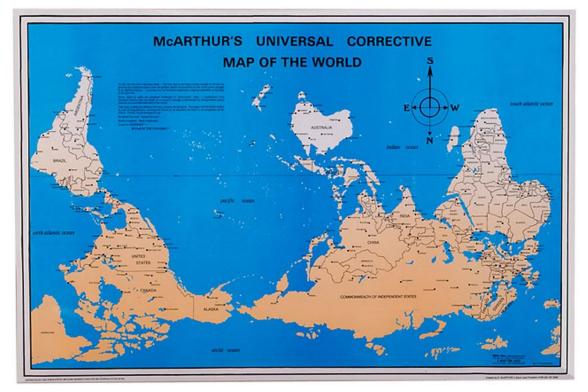


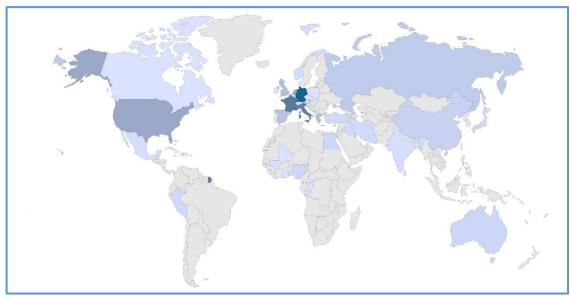




Theodor Galle/Jan van der Straet, Vespucci discovers America (1589).

https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/item/C6QXUXQLVIKAIVADBOAJ7ZM3WXLWTVT5





https://www2.klett.de/sixcms/media.php/229/us\_zrby\_entdecker.pdf

## How can we overcome these (Eureopan) pre-concepts in teaching (in Germany)?

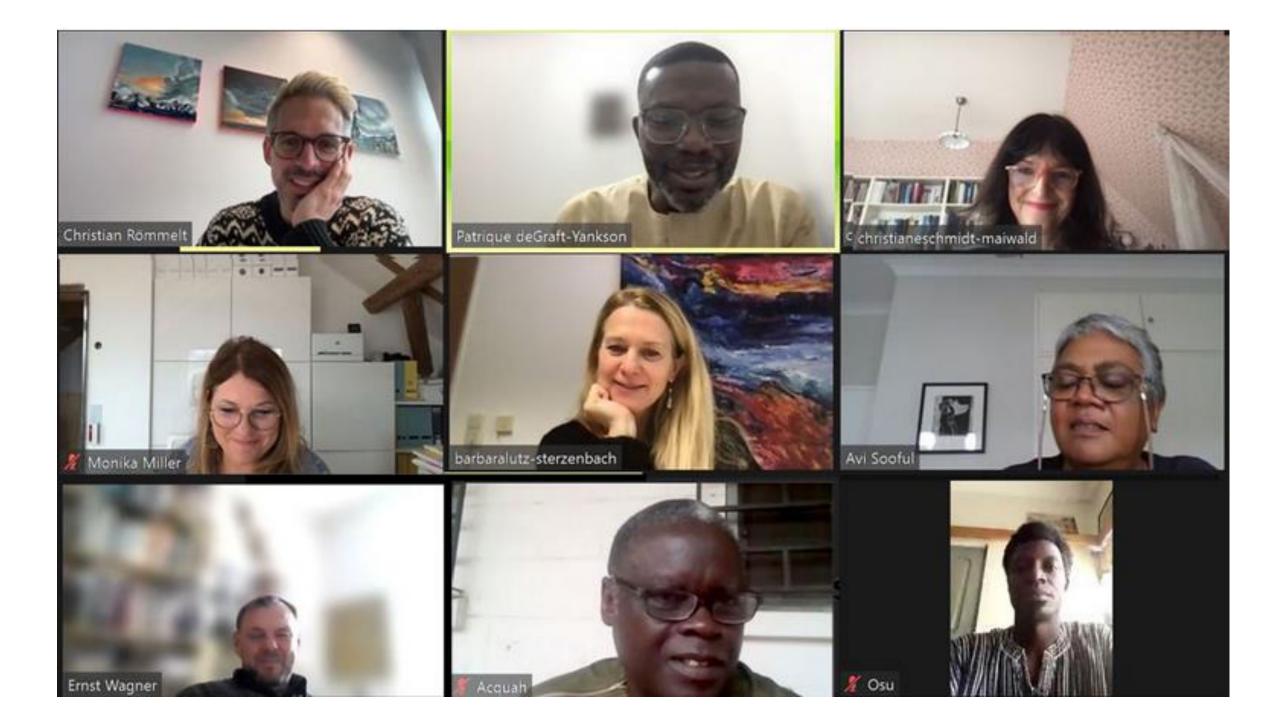
#### Manual for teachers in Germany "Global Perspectives"



### Manuals for art education in Ghana



Prototype for a joint Ghanaian-German textbook



## Thank you

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