

3es JORNADES APLEC DE DIDÀCTICA DEL PLEGAT PER A EDUCADORS



homo ludens → "playful folding without a plan"

Suggestions for playing with paper and folds without guidance or goal, training of the imagination, reduction of restraints from the paper folding

Excursion to Johan Huizinga

Homo Ludens is a book written in 1938 by Dutch historian and cultural theorist Johan Huizinga. It discusses the importance of the play element of culture and society. Huizinga suggests that play is primary to and a necessary (though not sufficient) condition of the generation of culture. The Latin word Ludens is the present active participle of the verb ludere which itself is cognate with the noun ludus. Ludus has no direct equivalent in English, as it simultaneously refers to sport, play, school, and practice.

Play is older than culture, for culture, however inadequately defined, always presupposes human society, and animals have not waited for man to teach them their playing.

Huizinga begins by making it clear that animals played before humans. One of the most significant (human and cultural) aspects of play is that it is fun.

Huizinga identifies 5 characteristics that play must have:

1. Play is free, is in fact freedom.
2. Play is not "ordinary" or "real" life.
3. Play is distinct from "ordinary" life both as to locality and duration.
4. Play creates order, is order. Play demands order absolute and supreme.
5. Play is connected with no material interest, and no profit can be gained from it.

Settings:

- grab whatever you have (any paper)
- fold spontaneously without a plan
- don't rate the results

What is it good for?

- it's a way to meditate
- it's a way to find uncommon ideas and solutions
- it's a way to create unique presents
- it's a way to keep the hands busy
- it's a way to concentrate to the process instead to the result