



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

NEED TO KNOW WEBCAST



Creating Diversity Through Character Development

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Thursday, April 29, 2021
7-8 pm ET

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Art is storytelling. Creating authentic, honest, and real characters takes research, patience, and a whole lot of being careful.

In this webcast, Davis Publications and partners Laura and Matt Grundler of the The Creativity Department, will speak with sequential artist and author David Gorden. Gorden is the creator of the graphic novel series Kwame Hightower, the comic series Quantum University, and the popular DKG72 YouTube channel. The conversation will focus on the importance of authenticity, intentionality, and vigilance when creating diverse characters in our art. We will discuss the value of asking “why” questions during the process of character development to

avoid stereotypes, and the relevance of understanding the “rules of art” before you try to bend them. As Gorden commented in a recent #K12ArtChat Twitter chat, “It’s important that Black kids, Latino kids, biracial kids, all students of color, see themselves in all of our media output. Not just as the support but as the lead. We have to tread lightly but be vigilant and intentional with creation.” Join the conversation for a candid and informative discussion about ways we can approach this important topic.

Please note that participation in this webcast does not provide NAEA professional development credit.

Presenters:



Kristi Oliver
Professional Development Manager
Davis Publications

Kristi Oliver is currently the professional development manager for Davis Publications in Worcester, MA, a company committed to helping art educators since 1901. Drawing from over 15 years of teaching experience in both high school and university settings, Oliver aims to assist communities in providing high-quality art education experiences for everyone.

She earned a PhD in educational studies from Lesley University, where her research explored the perspectives of high school photography teachers regarding visual literacy. Her research interests include visual literacy, 21st-century art education, contemporary photography, slow pedagogy, contemplative practice, and the creative process. Oliver was recently awarded the NAEA Eastern Region Award, has served as the President of the Massachusetts Art Education Association, and currently serves on the NAEA Research Commission.

Presenters:



Laura and Matt Grundler
Art Educators
The Creativity Department

As creative collaborators and arts advocates, Laura and Matt Grundler strive to help connect the dots for educators by building a professional learning network infused with art. They understand the power of creativity to transform learning and work to empower educators to leverage this power. The Grundlers are art educators from Plano, Texas. They are also proud parents, bloggers, and founders of the popular #K12ArtChat Twitter chat and The Creativity Department podcast (now K12ArtChat the Podcast). After teaching middle and high school art, Laura earned an MA in educational leadership and worked as an assistant principal before moving into the role of district visual arts coordinator. Matt started his career as a graphic designer. However, after finding the commercial side of design to be unsatisfying, he found his niche as a K–5 art teacher. Today, Matt teaches middle school art.



David Gorden
Author and Artist
4Sight Studio

David Gorden is a creator, writer, and sequential artist. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, he fell in love with art, particularly visual storytelling, at a young age. David is a professional graphic artist and cartoonist and was a founding member of legendary St. Louis art crews Air Assault and later Mach One. David has written and created IP for Lion Forge Comics, Rampage Jackson, Scott Steindorff, and Nick Cannon. His creative credits include Rampage Jackson: Street Soldier, Trimaxx, Quincredible, Sympathy for the Soul (script adaptation), Make Believe (script adaptation), and more. David is the creator of Kwame Hightower and Quantum University. He released his first independent original graphic novel, Kwame Hightower and the Man With No Name, in late March 2018. The story introduces the rambunctious 12-year-old Kwame Hightower, who becomes the king of England after he draws Excalibur from the sacred stone!