



Debriefing Letter

Dear Participant, Parent, and/or Guardian,

I would like to inform you that you or your child were/was invited to participate in a research study titled Culture and Drawing Styles 2023: Cross-Cultural Research on School-Aged Children and Teenagers Landscape Drawing Styles. This study is being conducted by Dr. Takahiko Masuda, a psychology professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta. We are interested in how students conceptualize their surrounding environment in two-dimensional artwork. Specifically, we are interested in investigating if direct experiences from being in an environment shapes our drawing styles; as well as investigating if culturally shared media shapes drawing styles. In addition, it is our hope that the results of this study will contribute to improving visual art curriculums in the future. We are very much interested in contrasting students' artwork across three different cultures: Canadian, Japanese, and Mongolian. To this end, we asked you or your child to engage in an art-making project and to fill out a demographic questionnaire.

We did our best to design this study to be fun for participants. Participation was completely voluntary. We began by orally providing them instructions, then asking them to decide whether they would participate in the activity. If participants were under the age of 18, we provided an assent form, and based on your child's decision to participate, we administered the data collection session. If students did not choose to participate in the activity, they were asked to freely spend time in class or enjoy free drawing. However, at any time, if the participant said that they did not want to participate or communicated nonverbally that they would no longer like to participate, then we stopped the session. Again, the decision to participate in this study was completely voluntary and the participant could withdraw at any time without any negative consequences. After the session, we orally debriefed the purpose of the study and data withdrawal policy. We collected their artwork only when participants expressed that they were okay to share it. There were no physical or emotional risks to participants associated with participation in this study.

The study was conducted with participants after receiving approval and consent from the Principal. Any information provided by participants for the purpose of this study will be kept confidential and will be securely stored in a locked room in Dr. Masuda's laboratory at the University of Alberta for at least five years. **The data will be kept anonymous, and participants' names will not be directly attached to the data.** Also, study results may be presented at conferences, published in professional journals, and/or presented in class lectures. In general, we will report on the pooled results at the group level. However, it is possible that participant's artwork may be selected as an example of our research findings.

If you prefer not for us to use your [child's] artwork as a part of our data, please email Dr. Masuda (tmasuda@ualberta.ca) and notify us within the month. We will identify the corresponding artwork and it will be excluded from the study. Otherwise, it will be assumed that you [and your child] are okay with sharing their artwork. Other identities will be kept confidential and will not be included in any report.

Thank you for considering my request for you or your child to participate in this study! If you have any concerns with this study, please communicate with a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta.

The plan for this study has been reviewed by a Research Ethics Board at the University of Alberta. Please note that this office is independent of the researcher. If you have questions about your and your child's rights or how research should be conducted, you can call +1 (780) 492-2615 and/or reoffice@ualberta.ca.

Sincerely,

Takahiko Masuda, Ph.D.
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University of Alberta
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