

Creativity and the Common Core

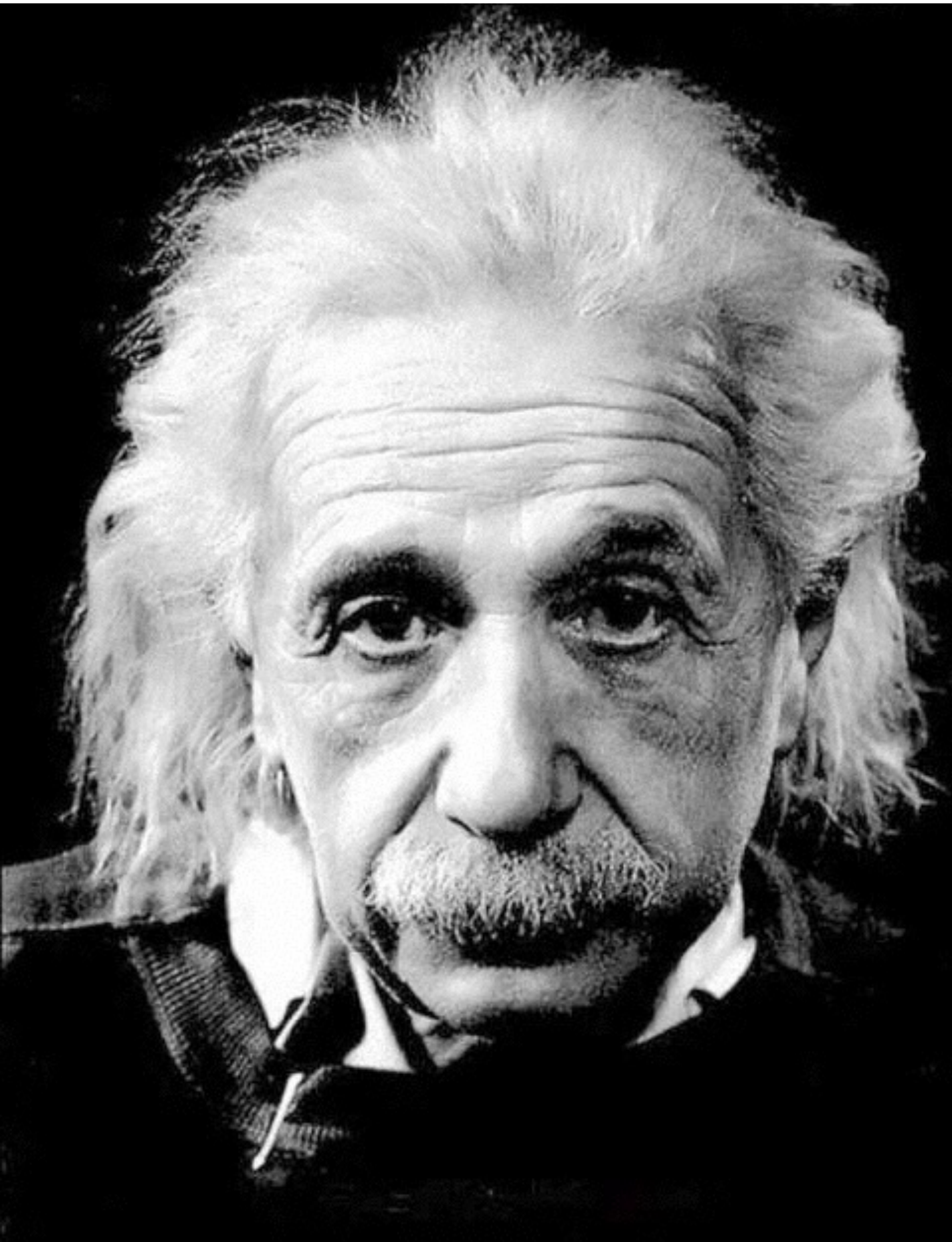


Donn K. Harris
LA County, August 2015

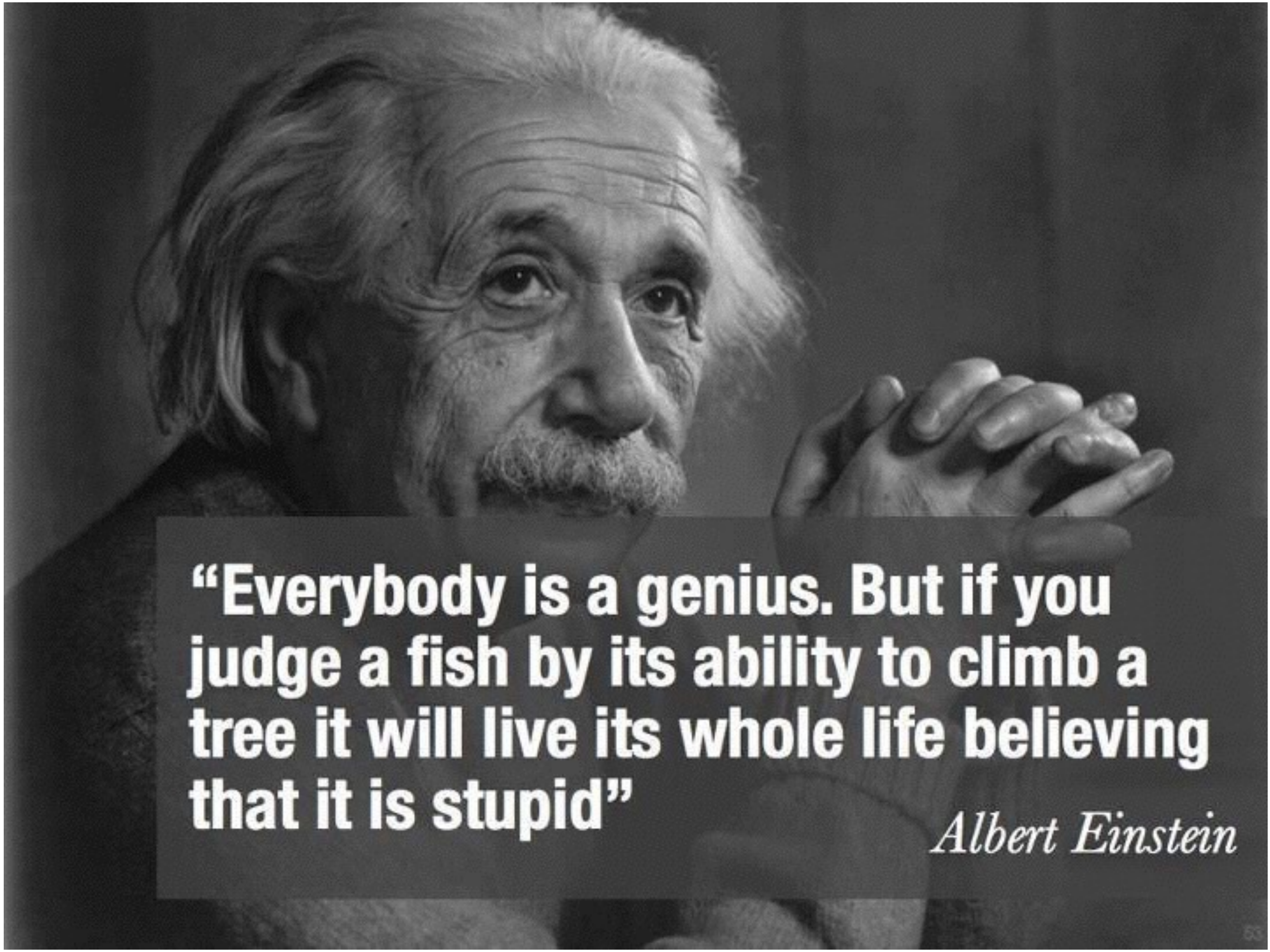


arts schools network
the resource for arts schools leaders





“I thought of relativity
while riding my
bicycle.”

A black and white portrait of Albert Einstein. He is shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. His hands are clasped together in front of him. The background is dark and out of focus.

“Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid”

Albert Einstein

Neuroscience Concepts

- Left-right brain dichotomy concept is incomplete: fluid and dynamic networks interact
- The “imagination” network covers many different areas of the brain
- The “aerobic zone:” movement as a stimulus for creativity



Creative Leadership Dynamics

- 7% Race Ahead
- 18% Early Adopters
- 24% Willing Skeptics
- 37% Waiting Until It's Done then Join
- 11% Against Everything Anyway
- 3% Didn't Know Anything Changed



Guru of
creativity

Richard
Florida:
The Rise of
the
Creative
Class.



- Workers creating meaningful new forms
- Thought leaders
- Creative professionals
- Decision makers using personal judgment

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- Super Creative Core: 12%
 - Scientists, Artists, Designers, Product Developers
- Creative Professionals 25-28%
 - Health Care, Legal, Financial, Educational, Technology

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- *“If you have the wrong metrics, you will strive for the wrong things.”*
- *“The most used adjective in the ‘LinkedIn’ profiles is ‘creative.’”*



The Conditions of Creativity



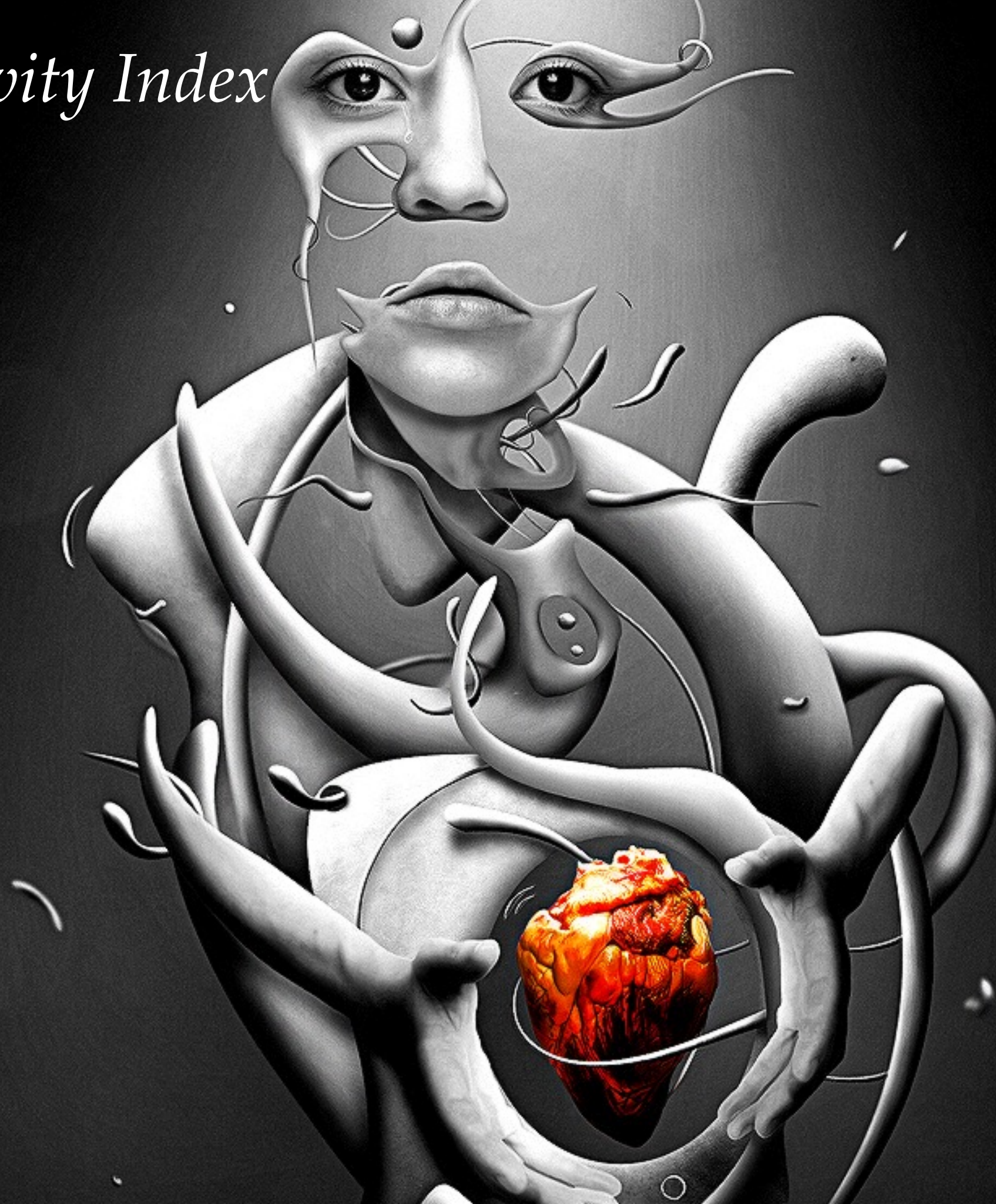


- Embrace ambiguity; break down certainties
- Focus on solution, let process evolve
- Activate memory, especially sense memory
- Use brainstorming and “simmer time”
- Mix it up: thought/action/movement
- Humor: Ha Ha = Ah Ha!



“I dreamed about it and woke up and wrote *Satisfaction*.”

Creativity Index



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- Index to judge cities and regions
 - % of creative workers
 - Patents per capita
 - High-tech industry
 - Diversity

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- Most Creative Regions
 - Large: SF, Austin
 - Medium: ABQ, Albany
 - Small: Madison, Des Moines



Proposed Educational Creativity Index



- % of classes requiring creativity or % of day spent on creative activities
- Classroom ratings for critical thinking and open-ended questions
- Teacher PD in creative areas
- Diversity
- Standardized measures

Proposed Educational Creativity Index



- Torrance Test of Creativity
 - “Improve the rabbit.”
 - Draw a scene based on an image
 - Make a design from random lines
 - Fluency, Elaboration, Originality in story writing
 - Elementary does better than upper grades

Proposed
Educational
Creativity
Index

Domain	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<i>Creative Classroom Activities</i>	Projects involving student innovation (% of day) Theater, Poetry, Music, Movement, Leadership (%)	(Combine some ES and HS elements)	Number of creative classes offered (% of total) % of creative assignments in core classes
<i>Professional Development</i>	Analysis of weekly teacher training (% involving creativity?) % of staff with arts or project training	Analysis of weekly teacher training (% involving creativity?) % of staff with arts or project training	Analysis of weekly teacher training (% involving creativity?) % of staff with arts or project training

Proposed
Educational
Creativity
Index

Domain	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
<i>After School Programs</i>	Theater, dance, visual arts, music offered (% of students) School productions Leadership activities	(Combine some ES and HS elements)	Debate clubs, technology classes, performances, student leadership, arts as in ES
<i>Critical Thinking Quotient</i>	Rating of questions asked by students: observation checklist Analysis of in-school assessments	Rating of questions asked by students: observation checklist Analysis of in-school assessments	Standardized creativity test Rating of questions asked by students: observation checklist Analysis of school assessments



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