

# The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method Brings Out a Student's Ability to *Learn!*

**I**N THIS THRILLING, URGENT SEMINAR, New York teachers will present and illustrate the most important news about education: as America's schools are in turmoil, the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method *succeeds!* You'll hear teachers give examples of lessons from their own classrooms and describe how students, many of whom had failed year after year, LEARN!—become excited by their subjects, remember facts, pass standard exams, and also become kinder to each other.

This is possible because Aesthetic Realism, founded by the American philosopher Eli Siegel, explains that

1. "The purpose of education is to like the world through knowing it."
2. The biggest impediment to learning is the desire to have contempt, to get "an addition to self through the lessening of something else."

It is contempt that makes a student declare triumphantly, "This is boring!" or has a teacher make scornful, belittling comments about her students. Contempt is the source of every cruelty, including bullying, racial prejudice, and the hideous injustice of profit economics, which deprives so many young people of food and decent homes. Clearly, it is hard to learn when your stomach hurts and you haven't slept the night before.

**Y**oung people are furious at the injustices they meet. At the same time, they're desperate to hear convincing evidence that this world *can be liked, honestly respected* without leaving out any of

the facts. And they want to see that the subjects they're studying *are related* to their own tumultuous lives. The Aesthetic Realism method resoundingly meets these hopes—through the following principle:

**The world, art, and self explain each other:  
each is the aesthetic oneness of opposites.**

**F**or instance, Tyrone, a representative young man, didn't think he could be both strong and sensitive—take care of himself yet be very much affected by things in a world that confused him. To be strong, he felt, would be to have things not "get to" him, not mean too much. Then, in the first science class he attended with Aesthetic Realism as the basis, he learned that every square inch of the skin on our bodies is a *oneness* of strength and sensitivity! The palms of our hands and soles of our feet have the thickest and toughest skin *and at the same time* they are rich with nerves—sensory receptors—and therefore terrifically sensitive to the outside world. Our eyelids, so thin and so delicately responsive that we can blink in a fraction of a second, are so tough that they protect our eyes for a lifetime. Seeing this—and the fact that it's true no matter what the color of our skin—Tyrone had much more respect for the world and people. He began to feel *he* could be affected by the world, sensitive to people, and *strong* at the same time—like his skin. He wanted, and was able, to learn!

On November 10<sup>th</sup> come and hear for yourself about the teaching method that meets the hopes of students, parents, and educators!

• SPEAKERS •

BARBARA McCLUNG (*elementary science, PS 184M*) ♦ PATRICIA MARTONE (*ESL, PS 134M*)

CHRISTOPHER BALCHIN (*social studies, NYC HS retired*)

ROSEMARY PLUMSTEAD (*science, NYC HS retired, current teacher educator*)

ARNOLD PEREY, Ph.D. (*instructor, The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method*)

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AestheticRealism.org

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