

## Seminar Summary

# Research in Art and Academia.

## Challenges for Discourses and Knowledge Systems

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### On the Social Relevance of Artistic Research

The arts are actively involved in the historical structural change from an industrial to a post-industrial society.

Formation, manipulation of symbols, intermedial, interdisciplinary and socially transformative artistic strategies represent constitutive moments of the knowledge-based societies which have emerged in the post-war period.

The strategies developed in this process include much-noted paradigm shifts, which, as *performative turn*, *educational turn*, *documentary turn*, *participatory turn* or *curatorial turn*, have determined discourse in the arts. The relevant processes for these *turns* are particularly clearly expressed in artistic practices which articulate themselves as *artistic research*; at the same time, they have brought about a marked improvement in the opportunities for societal involvement in processes of knowledge.

Beyond disciplining and appropriation, the goal is the creation of a discrete space for insight, action and experience in the context and awareness of these developments and their scientific-economic implications for the contemporary arts, which will also be productive in an academic and social context.

### What is Artistic Research? Designations and Descriptions

Artistic research has a long tradition and differentiated contemporary practices. In the last two decades, a large number of new forms of artistic research have developed – collaborative formats, living archives, documentary performances and many other ways of generating knowledge. Numerous artistic institutions now also perceive themselves as research institutions and many artists see themselves as researchers.

Artistic research avails of a broad spectrum of research methods: research, experimentation, exploration, intervention, analysis, critical reflection, field research, action research, work with (everyday) experts, etc. Thus, artistic research is related on the one hand to systematic academic research and on the other to extra-scientific, social and everyday practices of research in the broader sense. Artistic research considers the question “What is research?” to be socially negotiable, makes visible the poiesis, the moving elements of research processes, questions established research methods and creates new methods of research. Artistic research reflects its own practice but is not restricted to artistic practices in the range of issues it addresses.

Artistic research creates references and interactions between different forms of knowledge, research fields and actors, which have hitherto hardly had any connection in our system of knowledge and/or the system of science, art and society. Artistic research is often transdisciplinary and always takes place in exchange with different publics. It practices new forms of the collaborative.

Artistic research operates through formations processes. The presentation (the making experientable, updating, performance, exhibition, publication etc.) of knowledge is accepted as an essential part of the research process. Artistic research problematizes the difference between the creation and presentation of knowledge. Hence, it regards itself as processual, revising, updating and expanding on existing knowledge levels. One important methodological focus of artistic research is the inclusion and

exploration of the corporeality, the materiality, the situatedness and the performativity of knowledge. Artistic research generates and examines spaces of knowledge.

Against this background, artistic research is, on the one hand, capable of making the most diverse forms of knowledge (including embodied/tacit knowledge, minority knowledge, knowledge from experience) productive in research processes and their results. On the other hand, it can itself illustrate and question the mediality of the sciences.

Artistic research reacts flexibly to social problems and issues. It produces experimental arrangements and spaces for contemporary social debates and opens up alternative/Utopian perspectives, constellates cultural and historical contexts, and allows participation by actors whose voices might otherwise not be heard.

Artistic research is practical, pure research.

### **Recommendations on Promoting Projects of Artistic Research**

Based on existing experiences in other countries (including Switzerland and Austria), artistic research should be promoted as part of a special program.

This program should begin with a pilot phase, whose experiences are to be evaluated and assessed.

The pilot phase should involve a steering committee comprising both artists and expert consultants from art academies, universities and cultural institutions. Their tasks include drafting the criteria for the nomination of consultants and procedures for the awarding of funding.

The development of criteria for the assessment of funding applications is a component of the pilot phase.

Project applications in the field of artistic research are to be assessed by a circle of consultants comprising persons experienced in the field of academic research. International experience and expertise should be availed of.

Applicants should have an artistic expertise comparable to a doctorate issued by artistic, cultural or academic institutions.



Supported by



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