

Project Group 55 – When Artists Investigate, Intervene & Critique

Comment

Authors of the Comment:

Emélie Wahl

Alessia Francis Cermeno

Benjamin Müller

Carla Peters

Greta Weihmann

Iben Höske

Jan-Henrik Zabel

Johanna Meichsner

Justin Rieckmann

Lea Rürup

Melia Celine Henschke

Michaela Behrens

Natallia Pashko

Tom Patzwald

Wendla Schaper

Sandra Schröder

Comment:

In our group we dealt with the topic “When artists investigate, intervene, critique – Artistic research since the 1960s in a global and local perspective”. During our process there were three main questions coming up: What is artistic research? Is artistic research always included when producing art and what advantages are when. When discussing this topic, the biggest challenge we noticed is that artistic research is broad and brings up a lot of questions connected to different emotions. Furthermore, we realised that art and science at first seem like opposites of one another.

Having watched the presentation by Anne Breimeier, made us understand, what artistic research means and what it implies. After we discussed the necessity of artistic research, we realized that artistic research is not needed to create art, but that it can be a core element for some artists who want to deliver a political message and change the society to build a better future. Art is able to make research results easier accessible and understandable for a wider range of people by using more tangible methods and techniques. An artist who is an example for this is Marina Abramovic, who conducted a social experiment titled “Rhythm 0” to test how far people’s actions would go without facing any consequences.

As earlier mentioned, the contradiction between art and science is not as clear as we thought at first as Albert Einstein once said: “The greatest scientists are always artists as well.” This statement supports the thesis that the research connected to art can be a particularly crucial element of science and creativity. It also shows that creativity is a requirement for art and science. On the other hand, there are artists who produce art pieces without any intention other than aesthetics. Regarding this fact you must realise, artistic research does not affect every artist.

Important to mention is also that artistic research can be left out on purpose to influence people's minds in one way or another, for example in propaganda, where it is not wanted to show the reality.

In conclusion, you can say that differentiating art and science is not as easy as it seems at first. While there are a lot of differences there are also several similarities. One of the most striking differences is, that art is often connected to emotions and imagination, whilst science has a realistic and fact-based approach. In addition, art can exist for the sake of art, whereas science always has a purpose and is informative. Looking at the similarities it is obvious that art and science both need creativity as mentioned earlier and can rely on research. Both can also be used as means to understand and investigate the society. Art and science are intrinsically connected and can support each other.