

Artistic research since the 1960s in a global and local perspective”

The cooperation of artistic and scientific research in a time of multiple crisis

In a time of multiple crisis such as climate change and war, science and its research is very important in order to understand these phenomena and to create positive “Turning Points”. Nevertheless, there is also artistic research as a way to raise attention to the problems of our time. But what does the word “artistic research” even mean? What sounds complicated at first is quite simple actually: it tries to gain knowledge with the help of a creative perspective. Obviously artistic and scientific research have different approaches. While science tries to be objective, art is always connected to a subjective perspective: you have to bring your own skills to interpret an art project to get through the real meaning. Both, artist and viewers, have to do their part. However, scientific and artistic research have the same intention: they want to have an impact on our society as well as on us individuals. So how can artistic and scientific research cooperate with each other in order to achieve this?

Actually there are many different ways in which scientific and artistic research can cooperate. On the one hand, we can find different examples for this in history. One example is the “9 Evenings: Theatre and Engineering” project by artists and engineers in 1966 in New Jersey. In the various performances artists and engineers cooperate with each other: artists used new scientific technologies developed by engineers and scientists for their theatre performances. It was the first time artists used technological innovations to expand their own art work.¹

On the other hand, a cooperation of artistic and scientific research can also be found in the present. A perfect example is the new Coperni dress on the Paris Fashion Week in October this year. The Model Bella Hadid showed Coperni’s new visionary dress. It was sprayed on her in front of a live audience. But how does this work? The fashionists used a scientific technology: the liquid he used almost immediately became a stable material due to a chemical reaction (picture see attachment).²

In conclusion, in every time scientific and artistic research cooperated by using the mutual benefits in order to realise a new idea. For example whenever there has been a new technological innovation – whether in fashion, theatre or the endless possibilities of the

¹ Cf. Art Agenda: “9 Evenings: Theatre and Engineering” by April Lamm, Robert Smithson (9th December 2009)

² cf. CNN: “Look of the Week: Bella Hadid’s spray-on Coperni dress” by Samantha Tse (4th October 2022)

internet – artists have engaged with these technologies to create art. In relation to our examples the fashionists used the new technology to create the dress for Bella Hadid. In turn, scientists have to include a creative perspective to visualize their ideas. Therefore scientists have to design new technologies for example. To relate to our question in the introduction, there are a lot of multiple ways in which artistic and scientific research can cooperate. Furthermore, this is important to solve the big problems of our time and it's the only way to establish new perspectives, which are the foundation for a peaceful future together.

Sources (literature)

1. Art Agenda: *“9 Evenings: Theatre and Engineering”*
by April Lamm, Robert Smithson on 9th December 2011
in: art-agenda.com online (on 13th October 2022)
2. CNN: *“Look of the Week: Bella Hadid’s spray-on Coperni dress”*
by Samantha Tse on 4th October 2022 in: CNN online (on 12th October 2022)

Attachment



Bella Hadid getting sprayed on a dress at Paris Fashion Week

*(New York Post: “Bella Hadid’s nude, spray-paint dress generated millions by going viral”
Erin Keller, 3rd October 2022)*