



# Emerging models for Artistic Research across Europe

*Europe is brimming with publications, seminars, symposiums and exhibitions on artistic research and the number of artists in doctoral studies has grown exponentially. It remains to be seen whether this new paradigm will settle into universities and artistic programmes as a kind of eccentricity or whether it will develop into a dynamo or catalyst for a more general trend towards research orientation in the arts world and beyond...<sup>1</sup>*

In trendsetting countries such as the United Kingdom and Finland, where artistic research and PhD's have been initiated since the early nineties, now more than 2000 (UK) and 400 (Finland) PhD researchers are active at art universities or working in research-intensive environments.

National research funding initiatives in some countries, such as the exemplary Norwegian Fellowship Programme and the Austrian PEEK Programme, a community driven state funded framework for research projects have been pro-active in galvanizing artistic research initiatives. The Austrian programme, more than any other national initiative, also promotes international collaboration. Thanks to the SHARE Network, supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme and other initiatives,<sup>2</sup> a pro-active European framework is now capitalizing upon current and future national support initiatives. A key enabler at a European level has been the stimulus for programme innovation provided by the inclusion of the 3rd cycle into the Bologna Process.

During the last decade, specific models for doctoral programmes of a different nature have emerged, that with all its different dynamics amplify the advancement of artistic research.

A variety of emerging models can be identified, ranging from collaborative research centres, together with universities, not unlike the American MIT programme in Art, Culture and Technology, to universities and countries where still only two to three artists are engaged in a PhD. Some examples of emerging models include:

- Graduate schools, either at national level (Ireland) or at university level (UK, Germany);
- Collaborative research labs with science and/or technology and research labs in coalition with cultural and creative initiatives and creative entrepreneurs;
- The Norwegian Fellowship programme, focusing on highest artistic level;
- Transnational experimental doctoral programmes such as the English / Flemish/ Dutch DOCarts;

These national arrangements show the variety of the development of institutional frames for artistic research across Europe and the varying status of 3rd cycle programmes within higher arts education. In some European countries, the focus on artistic research policy and practice is still to develop. Especially in Eastern Europe, art universities and art schools may offer PhD degrees in art history and related disciplines, which in general is not considered as artistic research.

1. Jan Kaila, Artists as Researchers A new paradigm for Art Education in Europe, Finland 2013

2. The International Society of Artistic Research with its Journal of Artistic Research [http://www.artandeducation.net/author/journal\\_for\\_artistic\\_research/](http://www.artandeducation.net/author/journal_for_artistic_research/) and the Research Catalogue <http://www.researchcatalogue.net/>; European Artistic Research Network <http://www.artresearch.eu/>

### United Kingdom

Research in the arts is largely conducted at faculties of art at universities. Two art school conglomerates (University of the Arts London and the University for the Creative Arts) have independent university status. Often research is brought together in graduate schools (CultureLab, Newcastle; CRD, Brighton; CCW Graduate School, London; Cerenem, Huddersfield; ADRC, Sheffield); the Royal College of Art is an independent postgraduate institution. Scottish and Welsh art schools are under a different legislation.

Fees for PhD research are substantial, around GBP 5000 a year; funding often comes from the AHRC and other Research Councils. Standard duration is 3 years, but the majority of students is part-time (RAE 2008). One reason is that students often already hold a teaching position when they start their PhD; another is that they need to work to pay for their studies.

The United Kingdom is where PhDs in the arts first got institutionalized in the early 1990's, and as a result the number of PhD students is much higher than anywhere else in Europe. Also, unlike in other countries, a PhD is increasingly a requirement for a career in higher arts education – the 'entry level' for an academic career.

### Finland

Five HAE institutions with university status exist (zin veranderd). The majority of doctorates is awarded by Aalto University and by the University of the Arts Helsinki (in which Sibelius Academy, Theatre Academy and the Academy of fine arts collaborate). Of the more than 400 registered third-cycle students, less than half study full-time and 30-40 obtain a PhD annually. This is because study is free of charge, but funded positions are scarce. There have been postgraduate studies at Finnish art universities since 1981/1982, full doctorates since 2003.

### Austria

The six higher arts education institutions have independent university status since 1998. They are hosting research in science, technology and humanities and of course in all areas of the arts. A specific Dr. Artium degree at KUG Graz has been established since 2009. The funding 'Programme for Arts-Based Research' (PEEK) supports high quality research actions, a sensitive development of the arts and increased internationalization. The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna started a Graduate School in 2010. At the University of Applied Arts Vienna two postgraduate programmes Art & Science and Social Design exist. The University of Arts and Industrial Design Linz hosts doctoral students in media-art in the *Interface Culture* programme, in cooperation with University of the Arts Zurich. Such a connection also exists at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. All institutions provide adequate working spaces for artistic research. The PEEK programme was a result of lobbying actions towards the Austrian Science Fund and the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research. In 2009, the Austrian Science Council published the report *Empfehlung zur Entwicklung der Kunstuniversitäten in Österreich*, stating that doctoral programmes are needed to keep and attract artistic talent. An artistic doctorate which grants the possibility to achieve a PhD by an artistic work (or a portfolio) would need changing of the law. Several institutions are lobbying for such a change.

### Ireland

All PhDs in the arts have been concentrated at GradCAM (Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media, Dublin), in which institutes from Cork, Dublin, Dun Laoghaire and Belfast take part. HAE in Ireland takes place at *institutes of technology*, i.e. not universities; the right to award doctorates has been delegated to GradCAM, which opened in 2008. Approximately 40 PhD students and associate researchers doing a PhD at GradCAM.

### Norway

A funded national programme for third-cycle study in the arts that leads to a diploma at PhD level – though explicitly not a doctorate has been running since 2003. It is hosted by Bergen National Academy of the Arts, and includes 28 students from 8 HAE institutes and departments. The programme has been running since 2003. Funding within the National Norwegian Artistic Research Fellowships Programme is for three years.

### Sweden

Thirteen of the 37 universities in Sweden offer art degrees at the Masters' level, and since 2010 twelve have cooperated in the Konstnärliga forskarskolan (the national research school in the arts). The school was the first step towards a doctoral degree for artists. Senior artistic researchers are engaged in artistic education and research in all 12 universities and university colleges. They are funded by their respective university and by - among others - the Swedish Research Council, *Vetenskapsrådet*. *Vetenskapsrådet* has special funds dedicated to artists who perform artistic research.

Only three higher education institutes in Sweden, Gothenburg University, Lund University and the University College of Borås, are entitled to award artistic doctoral degrees. All three also award scholarly doctoral degrees to artists who pursue postgraduate studies under the 'old' system. In 2012 the University of Gothenburg had 31 doctoral candidates in its traditional PhD programme, and 7 in its artistic research programme. The Stockholm based universities and colleges currently also host PhD students in the arts in collaboration with the University of Stockholm and KTH, Royal Institute of Technology. The duration of the doctorate is set at 4 years.

#### Germany

Only some of the *Kunsthochschulen* have right of promotion. HfG Offenbach and HFBK Hamburg run a PhD programme in art, with a strong emphasis on theory. The University of the Arts Berlin has started a two-year Graduate School for artists and scientists. The Hybrid Platform is an initiative of the Berlin University of the Arts and the Technische Universität Berlin, which connects scientists, scholars, artists, students and experts from the creative economy and other branches of the Berlin-Brandenburg region. The HfG Karlsruhe cooperates with the ZKM (Centre for Culture and Media) on research in media-arts and technology; Merz Academy Stuttgart hosts research projects in cooperation with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. The German Research Council (DFG) provides third-level fellowships.

#### Belgium

HAE institutions as hogescholen do not have university status. The art schools have entered into associations with universities. Within the K.U. Leuven Association, the faculty of the arts unites five art schools. A new faculty of Architecture has been created to host the architecture curricula and awards a PhD in Architecture. The K.U. Leuven provides two-year funding for doctoral projects, renewable once. Similar constructions exist within the other university associations. The doctoral programme in music, DocARTES runs at the Orpheus Institute Gent, partnering with Dutch and Flemish partner institutes, and involvement from three British conservatoires. Hogeschool LUCA, Brussels (part of the K.U. Leuven Association, Brussels) hosts a 'master-after-master' research programme Transmedia. Within the Wallonian Community, the four university associations and the main academies coordinate a joint doctoral school *Art et Sciences de l'Art*. The three institutes of artistic education of Belgium's French-speaking Community in Brussels – the Conservatory, La Cambre and the Institut national supérieur des arts du spectacle et des techniques de diffusion (INSAS) collaborate within a joint transdisciplinary platform ARTes.

#### The Netherlands

HAE institutions as hogescholen do not have university status. The Royal Academy and Conservatoire, The Hague and Leiden University cooperate in an *Academy for the Creative and Performing Arts*, which hosts the PhDArts programme and participates, along with the Amsterdam Conservatoire, in the DocARTES programme. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research is funding two artistic research projects as a pilot.

#### France

No doctoral programmes at art academies exist, though there are two-year postgraduate programmes at ENSBA, Paris and ESADSE, Saint-Étienne. At the Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique (IRCAM), Paris, which is a music lab, 27 doctoral students are pursuing their PhD through cooperation with Université Paris VI. French universities (Sorbonne 1, Montpellier 3) offer doctorates in visual and plastic arts, with a strong emphasis on art history and art education. In 2008, the Ministry of Culture and Education published its overview report *État de la Recherche 2001-2008: Délégation aux Arts Plastiques*.

#### Switzerland

Art academies are not allowed to grant doctoral degrees and the 2009 report *Forschung an Schweizer Kunsthochschulen* gives priority to developing and consolidating Masters' programmes and research. Zurich University of the Arts runs several PhD programmes in partnerships with University of Art & Design Linz (*Interface culture*), University of Vienna (*Scenography*), University of Plymouth ("Z-Node" of the *Planetary Collegium*), University of Applied Arts Vienna (research platform and PhD programme in Higher Arts Education) and University of Art Graz (Music).

#### Czech Republic

Two universities as well as two art faculties organise art-oriented post-graduate programmes exist in the Czech Republic: the Academy of Fine Art in Prague (AVU), The Academy of Art, Architecture, and Design in Prague (VSUP), the Faculty of Fine Arts at the Brno University of Technology (FaVU VUT),

and the Faculty of Fine Art and Design at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem (FUD UJEP). FaVU VUT has a strong relationship with the scientific faculties of Brno University of Technology, which has helped to determine the disciplinary structure of the PhD programme focusing on the use of state-of-the-art technologies with art. The present form of the PhD programme has been accredited since 2010, comprising the fields of study “Art in Public Space” and “Art Management”. The post-graduate programme at FaVU strives to connect artistic practice and its theoretical reflection while bearing in mind the specificities of fine art. Although all FaVU PhD students are obliged to present a theoretical dissertation at the end of their studies, the present focus is on synergy between the theoretical dissertation and the art project.

#### Latvia

Three institutes of higher arts education, the Art Academy of Latvia, Latvian Academy of Culture, and Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music have right of promotion. However, since the Law on Scientific Activity requires a full dissertation, PhD studies are in art history and theory, not research in the arts. Nonetheless, one-third of the PhD students are art graduates, but the research they pursue is largely theoretical. A proposal by the Association of Art Academies to implement a doctoral degree for research in the arts was rejected by Latvian parliament. New amendments to the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (LIHE) allow implementation of joint degree programmes in the arts. Part of the funding comes from state scholarships; since 2009 there is additional funding from the European Social Fund through the „Support for AAL Doctoral Study Programs Implementation” agreement, aiming at a substantial increase of research students.

#### Portugal

Currently six PhD programmes in art and design exist at HAE institutions within universities; the University of Lisbon is the largest with 100 doctoral students at the faculty of arts. The practice PhD has full legal status since 2009; accordingly, students can choose between pursuing practice-based and theoretical research. However, it does not yet exist in music, dance and theatre. Under previous regulations, there have already been doctoral studies at HAE institutions since 2000. Funding mainly comes from the FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia; the standard amount of doctoral fellowships is € 750 / month.

#### Slovenia

The three academies of art have integrated in the University of Ljubljana (Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Academy of Music, Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television) have university status. They are currently preparing a joint PhD programme, starting from 2013.

#### Turkey

The 3rd cycle in arts educations is called ‘Proficiency in Arts in Fine Arts Faculties’, which is equivalent to the PhD status. Deze zin is veranderd Unsolved problems exist concerning the right balance between theoretical and practical works in 3rd cycle. Disciplines like painting, sculpture etc. offer the main thesis work to be practical. Disciplines like interior architecture and environmental design, etc. offer the work as a theoretical outcome of a wide analysis composed from visual and literature based research. Departments like interior architecture or graphics offer the work to be a balance of practical and theoretical methods. Proficiency in Art thesis must have artistic value and should include at least one of the following qualities and a report that documents and explains such a study. Proficiency in Art is at least a six-semester post-masters’ programme in the visual and performing art branches making it equivalent to a doctorate. It requires the presentation of an original work of art or (in music and the performing arts) a superior, creative performance.