

ELIA | Working Group Artistic Research Mandate

Aims

Along with artistic practice, research in the arts and through the arts is increasingly recognized as a research discipline. Realizing the innovative potential of artistic research, HAEIs face challenges in sustaining research infrastructures and environments, promoting staff development, and establishing firm and sound frameworks for the third cycle (i.e., doctoral education).

The Artistic Research Working Group aims to connect and support ELIA member institutions and their researchers, and facilitates ELIA's peer-learning platform on Artistic Research. The group strives to improve the situation and infrastructures surrounding artistic research by identifying challenges and opportunities, offering and facilitating solutions, and articulating the value and importance of artistic research. Through exemplifying artistic research, the working group seeks to foster a vibrant and collaborative research ecosystem and advocates for a strong and sustainable research climate and culture. This shall be achieved by activating peer communities and promoting peer-learning and sharing among ELIA members, and by encouraging to engage in research as a matter of course.

Tasks

With respect to community-related aspects, the working group in particular

- fosters collaboration and exchange of knowledge and experiences among ELIA members (HAEIs), researchers, educators, students, and practitioners engaged in artistic research.
- facilitates interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation among various artistic disciplines within the artistic research community and beyond.
- curates the ELIA membership platform for networking and for sharing knowledge, experiences, and practices related to artistic research(ers) and their environments. It regularly hosts platform gatherings in online, hybrid and in-presence formats.
- initiates, promotes and contributes to strategic projects on and for artistic research and showcases outcomes to inspire and encourage innovative approaches.

With respect to advocacy-related matters, the working group in particular

- raises awareness and promotes the understanding of the value and significance of artistic research within academia, within the art world and within society.
- advocates for increased recognition and support for artistic research within HAEI's policies and curricula and the wider academic community (on national and international levels)
- advocates for the autonomy, integrity, and academic legitimacy of artistic research. Addresses barriers and challenges faced by artistic research(ers) across the entire ELIA membership, including issues related to legal frameworks, funding, access to facilities, and intellectual property rights.
- advises and supports the ELIA Representative Board and Executive Board regarding advocacy initiatives related to artistic research on European and transnational policy level, and fosters effective networking and connectivity with relevant colleague networks dealing with artistic research.

Working Group Composition and Governance

Membership in the Working Group Artistic Research is open to ELIA members. The group size is normally ten members, and limited to a maximum of twelve members. Each member acts on a personal mandate, there is no delegation or substitution. The working group's composition shall adhere to ELIA's principles of diversity and representation, whilst also ensuring a sustainable link to and exchange with ELIA's Representative Board and Executive Group. Typically, the group includes two members of ELIA's Representative Board, ideally at least one of these should also be a member of the Executive Group.

The duration of term for working group members is six years, whereas the group is composed in such a way that there are overlapping term running times of the various group members. No more than one third of the working group should rotate at the same time.

The selection process for new working group members follows an open call procedure initiated by the working group. Calls may incorporate specific selection criteria in order to meet the principles of diversity and representation for the overall group composition. The working group shall draft a proposal for appointments upon received submissions. This proposal (including justification) is presented to the Executive Group by the working group's Chair. The Executive Group formally appoints the new members of the working group.

The working group's Chair is elected by the working group members from among its members. The Executive Group must be informed about the election and endorse the Chair of the working group for the proposed term. The maximum duration of term is four years, in case the endorsed term is shorter, it may be renewed up to this maximum.

The working group will set its priorities in line with ELIA's strategic focus as well as relevant developments and challenges affecting the membership, and will develop a two-year activity

plan to achieve its objectives. Members are expected to actively participate in bi-monthly working meetings, participate in and co-organise platform meetings, and engage in collaborative initiatives and activities facilitated by the working group beyond those meetings. Members are encouraged to host physical meetings of the working group in their institutions.

Artistic Research Platform/Community Hub

Since the 2018 Rotterdam Biennial, ELIA members have continued to exchange regarding artistic research through the Artistic Research Platform. Events of the platform are developed by the working group Artistic Research and can either take place in physical space or online. The events are logistically and productionally supported by the ELIA team. The working group plans for at least one community and membership event per year.

Whenever feasible, platform events are organised in proximity to or in collaboration with other events to involve members as widely as possible and to consider ecological and economic sustainability, both for attendees and ELIA and the working group as organisers.