

EVALUATING ARTISTIC DOCTORATES AT AVU: SHORT GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATORS

- The doctoral study in fine arts consists in the formulation and in-depth development of an artistic investigation.
- It takes the form of an inquiry through artistic practice. This inquiry, as the project's ongoing driving vector, needs not be formulated exclusively through verbal language, it can be formulated within the respective art form.
- In the final doctoral outcome (the dissertation), the work can be presented in various formats. The dissertation should include an explanation of the interconnectedness of its various components, a description of the research problem as well as the methods and strategies used, accompanied by a list of references.
- The artistic doctorate is evaluated as a whole rather than through a separate assessment of each component (e.g., evaluating artistic practice as practice and a textual component as theory).
- The artistic doctorate makes an original significant contribution to contemporary art practice.
- Through its contribution to art practice and its investigative process, the artistic doctoral project makes a notable contribution to new forms of knowledge and understanding. This can involve a wider understanding of a specific aspect in the field of contemporary art, its relation to other disciplines, or an expanded understanding of the world enabled by artistic practice and research.
- The artistic doctoral project demonstrates an awareness of the wider artistic, historical and intellectual context in which it is situated.

DETAILED PRINCIPLES FOR EVALUATING ARTISTIC DOCTORATES AT AVU

1. WHAT IS BEING EVALUATED: RESEARCH DRIVEN BY IMPACTFUL ARTISTIC PRACTICE

1.1. A complex yet focused research project that is driven by artistic practice

The doctoral study in fine arts involves the formulation and in-depth pursuit of an artistic investigation over a period of 4 to 6 years. As such, the research process is driven by artistic practice and has at its center the development of a substantial body of work that is coherent thematically and formally and is carried out in a systematic manner. Its outputs are of artistic significance and have the ability to create new aesthetic and conceptual spaces, change perspectives on the field of art, or suggest and imagine alternatives to existing realities.

1.2. An inquiry through artistic practice

The artistic doctorate takes the form of an inquiry through art, for which it devises its own methods. As such, it contributes to the development of existing forms of artistic thinking in research. It has an ongoing driving vector, a sense of a complex yet focused direction, motivation and an epistemic interest that can sustain its development over a number of years. By contrast to the research questions of theoretical disciplines in the humanities, the inquiry or interrogation at the center of an artistic research project need not be formulated exclusively through verbal language, it can be formulated within the respective art form.

1.3 Synthesized artistic doctorate outcomes

In the final doctoral outcome (the dissertation), this substantial body of work can be presented in various forms, including, among others, works of art, visual essays, research exhibitions, performative lectures, audio books, artist books, material libraries, epistemic objects, academic or literary texts, written reflections, research diaries, etc. or a combination thereof. The combination and the number of components is chosen according to the focus of the project. The dissertation should include an explanation of the interconnectedness of the various components, a description of the research problem as well as the methods and strategies used, accompanied by a list of references.

1.4 Accessibility

The dissertation project must be archived in a permanent format. The project is shareable and publicly accessible after its completion.

2. WHO EVALUATES IT: A MAJORITY OF ARTISTS IN THE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The evaluation must be carried out by professional practitioners in the field of contemporary art. The vast majority of the assessment committee must consist of active artists. The remaining members of the committee will be selected depending on the research focus of each project.

3. HOW IT IS BEING EVALUATED: CRITERIA

3.1 Contribution to the field of art

The artistic doctoral project makes a significant contribution to the field of art, particularly to art practice. The evaluation will not be done according to the principles of another discipline. For instance, the artistic research doctoral project should not be evaluated by the standards of art theory and art history. The artistic doctorate will be evaluated as a whole and not through a separate assessment of each component (for instance through a separate evaluation of the artistic practice as practice and of a textual component as theory). In the case of an interdisciplinary project or a project with a strong art historical or art critical component, the artistic research

project will still be evaluated as artistic practice and not as art theory, art history, sociology, science, etc. While the contribution to a discipline other than artistic practice can be part of an artistic research project, the evaluation of this contribution cannot be considered separately from the artistic contribution.

3.2 Contribution to new forms of knowledge and understanding

Through its contribution to art practice and its investigative process, the artistic doctoral project makes a notable contribution to new forms of knowledge. This can imply a wider understanding of a specific aspect in the field of art, its relationship to other disciplines, or a broadened comprehension of the world enabled by artistic practice and research. It can also involve a disruption in knowledge, or a questioning of its limits.

The dissertation project is a systematic original work with the potential to increase the level of skill or expertise in fine arts. It is a form of knowledge in action, revealing the intrinsic intelligence at the core of artistic practice, as a practice which does not necessitate the support of external theory to justify what it does. This does not mean that an awareness of relevant theory is not required (see the following point), it means that the project is not a mere artistic illustration of existing theory. The artistic doctorate postulates ideas and enables experiences through a process in which the artistic practice is central.

3.3. An awareness of the context and historical lineage in which the work is placed

The artistic doctorate demonstrates an awareness of the wider context it is situated in, its history, and the relationship that the project's new work and research establishes with this context.

As such, the inquiry at the basis of artistic doctoral research demonstrates an understanding of its position in the wider field of artistic production, both in its current state and historically. In the case of an interdisciplinary project, the research shows an understanding of the interdisciplinary context it is placed in and the history of this context.

3.4 Suitable formats and methods

The artistic doctorate project has developed suitable formats and methods to carry out research through art and art through research. By contrast to the sciences, where the methodologies of investigation for each discipline are more set, artistic research projects can devise their own formats and methods to bring together form and content, both in the process and in the final presentation.

This document was created within LARGE by Irina Gheorghe, in collaboration with Magda Stanová, Markéta Dolejšová and Anetta Mona Chisa to guide artistic doctorates evaluation processes at AVU.