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## **Annual Report from the President**

Dear SAR members,

2013 was an exciting and successful year for the Society of Artistic Research (SAR), full of important developments and compelling challenges. This report will outline the most significant developments.

At the last Members' Meeting a new Executive Board [1] was elected for a period of 2 years. Three members of the previous board were re-elected, ensuring the necessary continuity of the Society's operations, and four new members joined the board, bringing diversity to the Society's operations. With a steady increase of SAR membership, it is hoped that a greater degree of diversity can be attained in 2015 when the next board is due to be elected. All individual and institutional members are encouraged to consider engaging in the work of SAR and to consider carefully standing for the 2015 elections.

## **Strategy**

A strategy development process has been initiated to support SAR's current and future challenges, such as maintaining the publication of the Journal for Artistic Research (JAR), further developing the Research Catalogue (RC) publishing platform, increasing the number and diversity of SAR members, reaching financial independence and sustainability, as well as further augmenting the visibility and impact of the Society. In a first strategy retreat the Executive Board identified short and mid-term goals: technological update of the RC, start of a special focus on research driven arts education, production of one more public event per year, introduction of SAR Webinars and SAR Salons. The next steps in the process will further develop the necessary measures to reach these goals.

## **Journal for Artistic Research**

In 2013 the Editorial Team [2] of the Journal for Artistic Research produced two issues (JAR 3 and JAR 4). With a total of 42 expositions since its inaugural issue published in 2011, the operations of the journal have reached a mature state, offering state-of-the-art reviewing and editorial processes for exposing artistic practice as research.

## **Research Catalogue & Portal Partnership Project (PPP)**

Over the last year several important new features such as the Play tool, the Shape tool and audio support for the Slideshow tool have extended the Research Catalogue (RC). As part of the strategy process, a plan is being prepared for keeping the RC up-to-date with the development of web technologies. The further development of the RC is mainly driven by the successful Portal Partnership Project [3]. In 2013 eight new institutions joined the PPP in order to use the RC as an institutional repository and/or alternative publication platform. Currently there are 13 institutions participating in the PPP with more to come. Institutional partners are encouraged to consider joining the PPP. SAR has worked strenuously to strengthen this initiative and a highly constructive meeting for all portal partners was held in Vienna in February 2014.

## **Terms of Use for Research Catalogue**

The Executive Board has revised the Terms of Use for the Research Catalogue and has endorsed a new and simplified version in line with the Bern Convention on intellectual property rights (copyrights). This new version substitutes the two former documents regarding this issue (Terms of Use and Agreement Letter), and provides the user with further ownership rights than the earlier version. As a result, there will be no need for resigning any earlier agreements from the user's side.

## **Advocacy**

In response to the OECD call for revisions of the Frascati Manual, and in tandem with the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, Swedish Higher Education Authority and ELIA, SAR proposed "that artistic research becomes a field of its own on the 1-digit level in the Frascati classification". The full letter can be read on SAR's webpage [4].

## **SAR Operations**

As one of its first measures, the new Executive Board reviewed the operations of previous boards as a basis for structuring its work. This led to several developments increasing the efficiency, visibility, and transparency of the Society's operations. These include:

### *SAR identity and webpage*

- A visual identity of SAR (see letter head) and webpage [5] have been developed as the basis for informing both the members and the public about SAR, its goals, activities, events, structures and members as well as providing legal documents and meeting Minutes for download. Thanks to the technical support from Zurich University of the Arts in creating the webpage, this is a major step forward in regard to the organisation's visibility and transparency.

### *SAR information*

- A new Wikipedia article [6] secures easy and formal access to SAR as an organisation.
- SAR's activities are communicated frequently via a new Facebook page [7].
- A regular email newsletter informs some 3 000 subscribers to the SAR mailing list about SAR and developments of interest in the field of artistic research.

### *SAR administration*

- The web-based project-management tools used by the board have been restructured.
- A new budgeting system has been installed in order to improve forecast and control revenues and expenditures.
- SAR's various operations have been clearly identified and respective responsibilities have been assigned to board members.
- The working procedures with the back office in Bern have been updated.

### **Loitering with Intent**

Together with the newly formed Stockholm University of the Arts (UNIARTS), SAR has prepared its annual event *Loitering with Intent: A Feast of Research* [8], which explores formats for sharing knowledge that emerges from artistic research practices. *Loitering with Intent* foregrounds performative modes of exposing practice as research and the importance of face-to-face discussion between all present about how and why artists do research.

### **Mind the Gap**

Documentation of SAR's last annual event *Mind the Gap!* has been made available in the RC [9].

On behalf of the SAR Executive Board,  
Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Eckel  
President

### Links

- [1] <http://www.societyforartisticresearch.org/about/executive-board>
- [2] <http://www.jar-online.net/index.php/pages/view/97>
- [3] <http://www.researchcatalogue.net/portal/portal>
- [4] <http://www.societyforartisticresearch.org/archive/other-documents>
- [5] <http://www.societyforartisticresearch.org>
- [6] [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society\\_for\\_Artistic\\_Research](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Society_for_Artistic_Research)
- [7] <https://www.facebook.com/societyforartisticresearch>
- [8] <http://www.societyforartisticresearch.org/activities/loitering-with-intent-a-feast-of-research>
- [9] <http://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/33841/37723/1967/0>