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Subject: JAR Newsletter 17/11/2010
Date: November 18, 2010 12:00:00 AM GMT+01:00

Society for Artistic Research (SAR)

17/11/2010 Newsletter

We are still busy with developing the Research Catalogue (RC) software, which will be used for the inaugural issue 0 of the Journal for Artistic Research (JAR) expected around the end of the year. JAR 0 will be a special issue, for which we invited a number of artistic researchers to present their work. A call for papers for subsequent issues, which will be peer-reviewed, will be released early 2011.

The Research Catalogue (RC) software is developed as part of the RAAK International funded Artistic Research Catalogue (ARC) project, which will host a work-in-progress conference 'Artistic Research: Works and Expositions' on Dec 10/11 in Gothenburg.

Note that nominations for the SAR executive board election will have to be made before **31/12/2010**. Please put your name forward if you are interested. The Society for Artistic Research (SAR) general assembly will take place in Berne on March 4/5 2011 and will also be accompanied by an ARC work-in-progress conference.

Connected to this is the fact that SAR is still geographically biased. We have not yet managed to even out our membership base and very much invite suggestions and a discussion on how to do this. Thank you very much to Ray Langenbach, who provided us with a polemic flagging up some of the issues on the forum: <http://jar-online.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=67> Please take this seriously, since politics operate on every level, not just along the lines we find easy to engage with.

You will need to subscribe to one (or more) discussion forum if you want to receive notifications of new forum messages. More information here: <http://jar-online.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=3>

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1. ARC Gothenburg conference

Work-in-progress conference

ARTISTIC RESEARCH: WORKS AND EXPOSITIONS
Gothenburg 10 - 11 December 2010

Artisten / Academy of Music and Drama
Room A505 (Lingsalen)
Fågelsången 1

'Expositions' in the context of the Artistic Research Catalogue (ARC) are multimedia and multidimensional research articles that allow artistic research to be exposed, staged, performed, unfolded, translated, curated etc. Elements that are displayed as part of an exposition may, but need not, belong to a 'work'.

During this work-in-progress conference, we plan to introduce a number of ongoing research projects and their take on ARC in an attempt to sharpen our understanding of what expositions and works might be and how they might be enacted. A number of keynote speakers will add further reflective dimensions and help contextualise ARC in the debates around artistic research and artistic practice.

Keynote speakers: Darla Crispin, Mika Elo, Luc Derycke, Rolf Hughes

The program can be downloaded via this page: <http://www.kabk.nl/pageEN.php?id=0485>

The ARC conference is free and open to all. To attend please RSVP to: t.degroot@kabk.nl

2. Revised membership fees for 2011

The executive board has revised the SAR membership fees for 2011.

Individual membership remains at 50 Euro.
A student membership is introduced at 15 Euro.
Institutional membership is reduced to 500 Euro.

The institutional membership support schemes have been renamed as follows:

- Scheme A: membership fee plus 10'000 Euro.
- Scheme B: membership fee plus 5'000 Euro.
- Scheme C: membership fee plus 1'000 Euro.

We hope that with this adapted fee structure more members can join. We are highly dependant on membership fees for JAR as well as the day-to-day running of the research catalogue. Please use this page to become a member of SAR: <http://www.jar-online.net/sar/sar-membership-form.html>

Note: as agreed during the last general assembly, SAR 2010 members are still eligible to vote at the March 4/5 2011 general assembly in Bern.

Note 2: individual members just like institutional members have one vote. We would like to urge those SAR and artistic research activists who forgot to become a member to do this, since otherwise they will be excluded from the vote.

Note 3: the executive board is discussing to introduce uploading quotas to the RC and fees for support.

3. Membership politics

It has been pointed out to us (and we are very aware of the fact) that most of our membership base as well as both the executive as well as the editorial board members have a Western artistic or educational background. It is clear that work has to be done to engage with those who might feel that SAR is less accessible to them. As a first step, we asked Ray Langenbach to flag up some of the issues in an attempt to spark a debate about implicit in- and exclusion dynamics in SAR.

Ray Langenbach's polemic can be found on the JAR forum here: <http://jar-online.net/forum/viewtopic.php?f=7&t=67>

Can we ask you to comment on the issue, suggest solutions or ways in which to address the problem? If you feel underrepresented, can we urge you to make your voice heard in online forum discussions or potentially even by putting your name forward for election to the executive board.

Note: potential geographic or cultural discrimination is not the only dimension to be addressed. Issues of gender as well as questions of disciplinary bias also need addressing and so does the relationship between academic and non-academic forms for research.

4. SAR executive board nominations

The next general assembly of the Society for Artistic Research (SAR) will be on March 4/5 2011 in Bern, Switzerland. As agreed during the first general assembly the executive board will be up for election after this initial first year. The executive board invites nominations for the

election by the end of 2010. Please get in contact with us, if you are interested: sar@jar-online.net

Nominees will be asked to provide information on themselves and the work they plan to do in case they are elected (ca. 2-300 words). This material will be distributed to SAR members prior to the assembly. Additionally, each nominee will get 5 minutes during the assembly to introduce themselves.

Having learned from the experience this year, the executive board proposes to be explicit about the role and the type of work a nominee would wish to undertake in case of election. Although the actual filling of the roles will be the responsibility of the new executive board, the current board proposes the following list:

1. president
2. vice-president (treasurer)
3. 2nd vice-president (secretary)
4. business planning and funding
5. membership
6. events
7. special developments (e.g. copyright, peer reviewing, technology etc.)

The executive board will be elected for 2 years. It will appoint the editor in chief for 5 years.

5. JAR presentations

We introduced JAR during a number of conferences during the last few month including:

'Art in Custody', Malmo, 10 & 11/11/2010
AEC conference, Warsaw, 4 - 6/11/2010
ELIA biannual conference, Nantes, 27 - 30/10/2010
SLSAeu conference, Riga, 15 - 19/06/2010

In case you think we should present JAR as part of an event you are planning, or if you would like to have more material so that you can present JAR yourself, please let us know.

6. JAR 0

Exciting times! JAR 'zero' is in preparation, and we hope that despite the still alpha status of the software with limited functionality, we will be able to demonstrate the concept of expositions, the central feature of the research catalogue.

JAR 0 is by invitation. All editors have been working closely with one or more researchers to explain the concept and help them in preparing their expositions during a time when only rudimentary research catalogue features were available. However, the editorial board is excited about its selection and is certain that JAR 0 will not only introduce the concept and technology of JAR, but also much engaging artistic research.

We are working ('frantically') to get JAR 0 ready for Dec/Jan, so watch this space.

Sadly, due to time constraints Dieter Lesage resigned from the editorial board. We thank him for his contribution.

With the publication of JAR 0 we will re-launch our website, which Luc Derycke and his team is currently designing. Apologies for the cumbersome navigation on www.jar-online.net until this point.

7. Research Catalogue development

JAR 0 will be launched using an early beta version of the research catalogue software. Even at this stage, the research catalogue will include a repository in which to deposit multimedia files and text. It will allow for the creation of expositions, each of which can consist of multiple pages (or 'weaves', as we call them).

Content from the repository can be placed on the weave using rectangular tools. We will start with a very limited selection of tools (display of text, image, video and audio), while we will

continue to develop additional tools as part of the ARC project and through SAR funding in the coming years.

The research catalogue software will be open source. SAR will host one instance of the research catalogue software, while other institutions or even individuals may host other instances. Not all publications on the research catalogue need to be submissions to JAR, which means that the research catalogue can be a publication space for all kind of research activities (some of which may be peer-reviewed and published by JAR). If you are wondering where to store or publish your research think no further!

8. Peer reviewing

The future JAR peer reviewing procedures are still heavily discussed. Since this topic is crucial for the whole project, we would like to get you involved in the discussion on the forum. It is all of us, who can decide on the procedure - so let's use this chance for defining our ideas of quality: <http://jar-online.net/forum/viewforum.php?f=3>

9. Showrooms for artistic research

There are ideas for setting up an international network of showrooms that want to display artistic research productions (concerts, theatre, exhibitions etc.) in relation to JAR. Martin Burr, Imprimerie Basel, is working on a concept. If you are interested in developing this idea further, contact him via martin.burr@imprimerie-basel.ch

10. Future calls for papers

A number of people approached us for a call for papers and our submission policy. At this stage we still ask you for your patience - a call for paper will be made with the publication of JAR 0, while we will be able to accept submissions only from March 2011 due to the fact that submissions will have to be made online using the research catalogue software.

As promised we aim to publish two (peer-reviewed) issues a year. We expect submissions for JAR 1 to be possible until the end of May, so please start planning your own submissions soon.

11. Future dates

10/11 December 2010: ARC conference in Gothenburg
31 December 2010: Deadline nominations for SAR executive board election
4/5 March 2011: SAR general assembly in Bern

12. Links

Website: <http://www.jar-online.net/>
Mission statement: <http://www.jar-online.net/sar/sar-mission.html>
Become a member: <http://www.jar-online.net/sar/sar-membership.html>
Discussion forum: <http://jar-online.net/forum/index.php>
Mailing list: <http://www.jar-online.net/list.html>
Newsletter archive: <http://www.jar-online.net/newsletterarchive.html>

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