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Stockholm, August 30, 2013

Subject: Proposed revision of Frascati Manual (inclusion of artistic research)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Society for Artistic Research (SAR) is an international nonprofit, artistic and scientific society devoted to developing, linking and disseminating internationally artistic research as a specific practice of producing knowledge and insight. SAR also aims to facilitate co-operation and communication among those interested in the study and in practices of artistic research. SAR was set up (March 2010 in Bern, Switzerland) for the purpose of publishing the Journal for Artistic Research (JAR) and by other means to support the development of artistic research. The Journal for Artistic Research is an international, online, open-access and peer-reviewed journal for the identification, publication, dissemination and discussion of artistic research. Its editorial policy is to highlight exemplary, peer-reviewed artistic research from across all artistic disciplines.

SAR remains the only international society for artistic research in the world. It has an international membership drawn from both academic and non-academic institutions and individuals. Its objectives are to promote the practices of artistic research as undertaken both in and outside academic institutions, to facilitate co-operation and communication among those interested in Artistic Research, to hold, or to participate in the holding of, conferences and meetings for the communication of artistic based knowledge, and to publicise and disseminate by other means knowledge and views concerning artistic research practices and results.

Together, the Society for Artistic Research and the Journal for Artistic Research represent an important platform and international network for developing and disseminating artistic research initiatives and outcomes.

As the Frascati manual aims to reflect changes in the nature of contemporary R & D, the Executive Board of SAR would like to draw your attention to the rapid growth and dissemination of artistic research across funding agencies, universities, publications, international conferences and related fora. In order to update the Frascati manual so that it remains an accurate representation of contemporary R&D, we request that artistic research be included as a significant category on its own terms.

Artistic research is widely recognized. Recent conferences and initiatives in Europe include the SHARE initiative (Step-change in Higher Arts Research & Education) including participation from large networks such as ELIA and smaller networks such as EARN and EUFRAD to name only some of the many networks active in European arts research.

Today, Arts is classified under the 2-digit topic 6.4. Arts in the Frascati Manual. This topic includes art history, musicology, theatre science, studies on film etc., i.e. various fields of research on art. This

classification does not in any satisfactory way reflect the development of artistic research (i.e. research through art).

We would like to draw your attention to a recent joint initiative from the Head of the Economics Statistics department, Statistics Sweden and the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education suggesting that artistic research should be a field of its own on the 1-digit level in the classification. This proposal was addressed to the OECD Head of Economic Analysis and Statistics in November 2010.

More recently the European League of Institutes of the Arts, ELIA, suggested a similar solution in a letter also addressed to the OECD Head of Economic Analysis and Statistics in January 2012.

The Society for Artistic Research supports these initiatives and proposes that artistic research becomes a field of its own on the 1-digit level in the Frascati classification. We would be pleased to elaborate on our position in a meeting with you, or in any other way contribute to the understanding and acknowledgement of artistic research.

Yours sincerely,

Rolf Hughes
Vice President, Society for Artistic Research
Stockholm.