



Society for Artistic Research
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2015 Annual Report from the President

Dear member of the Society for Artistic Research,

It is my privilege to report on the state and workings of SAR in 2015. We are all part of an exciting intellectual and artistic endeavour, which is by now more and more recognized throughout the world as one of the most important hubs for the discussion, publication and dissemination of artistic research in all disciplines, in and outside academia.

The current operating Executive Board of SAR was elected at the General Assembly on the 2nd of May 2015 in London. Its members are:

Henk Borgdorff, President
Johan Haarberg, 1st Vice-President (Treasurer)
Giacco Schiesser, 2nd Vice President (Secretary)
Alexander Damianisch
Anya Lewin
Leena Rouhiainen
Gabriele Schmid

2015 was in many respects a turbulent year. We were confronted with a financial setback, after our annual conference in London, which threatened the stability of the society. And although we did not reach the required solidity we aimed for, the financial situation at the moment is balanced, with an increase of turnover from 135.000 euro in 2014/2015 to 185.000 in 2015/2016, and with a stable reserve of about 60.000 euro.

We owe that stability in large part to the generous support of our Institutional Members, of which I will highlight here three institutes: the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, Zurich University of the Arts and the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. The substantial support of these three institutes contributed significantly to the positive outlook for 2016. In this context I should also mention the considerable support from the University of the Arts, The Hague and Leiden University for the 2016 SAR Conference in The Hague.

In the autumn of 2015 our Back Office in Bern (Switzerland) announced they would terminate the agreement with SAR on 1 January 2016. (More on this in the financial

report.) My gratitude goes to Johan Haarberg, our Treasurer, who invested much time and energy in the transfer of our Back Office to Amsterdam.

We are also delighted to welcome our new individual members. We had 45 paying members by the end of 2015 and 45 applications for memberships have already been received in 2016.

We are also happy to welcome the following institutional members (in 2015 to date):

Codarts – University of the Arts, Rotterdam
Dublin Institute of Technology, Graduate School of Creative Arts
Plymouth University, School of Art and Media
Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen
University of East Anglia, Norwich
Hochschule für Künste im Sozialen, Ottersberg

Journal for Artistic Research

In 2015, JAR was able to deliver three issues of high quality expositions of practice as research. To date, JAR has produced a total of 67 expositions since its inauguration in 2011. We have seen an increase of both submission rate and submission quality. At the end of 2015, the Editorial Board was extended and is now comprised of eleven members addressing the previously existing gender imbalance and also to some degree the geographic focus (in addition to Europe, the board now has members from North and South America as well as Africa). This was made possible by well-established and tested workflows.

Research Catalogue

With currently more than 7400 users, the RC offers the largest existing forum and network for artists interested in research today. It is used for profiling and self-publication, as an institutional repository, as a research and education management tool, as a publishing platform for several online journals, and as a database for projects, degrees, and supervisors.

2015 has seen major developments of the RC. The RC web page now uses SSL/HTTPS encryption, which significantly enhances the security of RC network communication. A new inline text tool has been implemented, which allows text be typed directly into a tool on the editor. A new footnotes tool can be used to display text and other media in popovers. The social media aspects of the RC have been strengthened through a new feature that makes it possible to follow users, expositions, works, degrees, and projects. The messaging system has been overhauled and the audio quality has been improved.

Casper Schipper joined Luc Döbereiner in the position of RC Managing Officer in January 2016.

The Portal Partnerships

The Portal Partnership scheme is now well established with more than 10 partners of whom several now actively operates their portals. Three new portal partners signed up in 2015 and one has stepped out in 2016.

The Executive Board organized on regular basis two annual meetings for representatives of the partner institutions, where new functionalities are presented, future developments are discussed, experiences shared and contacts between institutional representatives established and developed. In 2015 the meetings were arranged in The Hague (spring) and Vienna (autumn). The participation in these meetings is good, and almost all partners have been present in 2015.

General Assembly 30 April 2016

During our GA in The Hague we will ask your opinion (and consent) on the following issues:

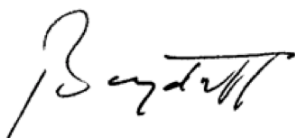
- Approval of the Annual Report of the President
- The endorsement of the Financial Report 2015 and of the Working Budget 2016
- An adjustment of the Articles of the Association
- A proposal for the establishment of an Election Committee
- The installation of a rotation system for Executive Board members elections
- A Reimbursement Policy

Perspectives

Next to the efforts to increase the financial solidity of SAR and to the further development of JAR and the Research Catalogue platform, the Executive Board will take forward the following initiatives in 2016:

- a. The installation of so-called SAR Correspondents. These are people dedicated to artistic research, who live and work in culturally and/or geographically remote places, and who can both report yearly on local developments pertaining to artistic research and operate as 'ambassadors' for SAR and its associated Journal for Artistic Research and the Research Catalogue. This will strengthen the workings of SAR and will increase its inclusivity.
- b. The establishment of an Announcement Service for our members (and others) through the Research Catalogue. This service might also contribute in due time to the financial stability of our operations.

Yours sincerely,



Henk Borgdorff