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## **2016 Annual Report from the President**

Dear member of the Society for Artistic Research,

The Society for Artistic Research (SAR) gives voice to a growing community of artist-researchers worldwide, inside and outside academia. It facilitates the discussion, publication and dissemination of artistic research in all disciplines, and thereby contributes to the further development and prosperity of the research field. 2016 has been in many respects a successful year for the SAR. It is again my privilege to report here on the state and workings of SAR.

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

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

At our annual General Assembly in Helsinki on 30 April 2017 there will be elections for some of the board positions. More information about the elections is included in this information package.

### **Finances and budget**

In general, the financial activity level over the last years has increased considerably, from approx. € 50.000 in 2012, over approx. € 135.000 in 2014/2015 towards around € 170.000 in 2016.

The increase in 2016 was first expected to be even higher, but part of the RC Commissioned feature development income and costs related to the development of the new Application Module had to be taken in 2017 instead. We were still able to deliver a balanced result, with no unexpected major deviations from the endorsed budget – which secure the annual reserve in the range of € 60.000 plus.

This is the place to thank all our members – institutional and individual – for the support we have received through their membership. A special thank for our ‘elite’ members who generously sponsored SAR with additional resources: the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, Zurich University of the Arts and University of Applied Arts Vienna. SAR also would like to express gratitude for the substantial contribution of the University of the Arts The Hague and Leiden University for the SAR Conference 2016 and the University of the Arts Helsinki for its support for the 2017 SAR Conference.

## **Membership**

Individual membership has shown a considerable growth, from 45 in 2015 to 104 in 2016. There is expected a similar level in 2017, and up to the date of this report 82 members from 17 countries have paid their fees this year.

We are very happy to welcome our new institutional members (2016 and 2017 to date):

Rhythmic Music Conservatory, Copenhagen  
Plymouth University, Centre for Media, Art and Design  
Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen  
Hochschule für Künste im Sozialen, Ottersberg

Akademie der Bildende Künste Wien  
Dansehallerne, Copenhagen  
Filmuniversität Babelsberg Konrad Wolf, Potsdam  
Norwegian Academy of Music, Oslo (Portal Partner)  
School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University  
Theatre Faculty, Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Brno  
Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Wien  
Westminster School of Media, Art & Design, University of Westminster, London

## **Journal for Artistic Research**

In 2016, JAR was able to again deliver three issues of high quality expositions of practice as research. To date, JAR has produced a total of 82 expositions since its inauguration in 2011. JAR has seen a continuing increase of both submission rate and submission quality. The extension of the Editorial Board in 2015 to include members from North and South America as well as Africa led to a further reconsideration of the journal’s diversity and accessibility. One result of this is the new website ([www.jar-online.net](http://www.jar-online.net)) which now (launch spring 2017) includes both a so called ‘peer-review board’ as well as a ‘network’ section supplying additional texts and discussions on top of our existing Facebook page. This widening of the group of people active in JAR is a prerequisite for getting JAR ready to accept submissions from more diverse backgrounds as well as selected languages other than English. JAR aims to include further languages as soon as possible once the wider and more diverse ‘network’ has been established. The Editor-in-Chief of JAR, Michael Schwab, has been re-appointed by the Executive Board of SAR for the next period of three years.

## **Research Catalogue**

With currently about 9000 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.

We are happy to inform you that the RC is now also used by the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) as a database for supervisors of research work by (master) students from conservatoires. This is still a pilot and the AEC and SAR will evaluate the pilot in 2017.

In 2016/2017 much work was dedicated to the development of an ‘application module’ in the RC: a provision within the RC to handle submissions for project funding and for the handling of admissions to degree programmes. This development of the module was supported by the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme (NARP) and will be launched around the time of the General Assembly in 2017.

Another major step was taken with the RC overhaul, which provided a significant improvement of the RC performance and included some new features.

For both new developments we would like to thank all those involved in the project, especially Luc Döbereiner on behalf of the RC Steering Committee, Johan Haarberg on behalf of the SAR Executive Board, NARP, and the software developers Mühlischleger Gbr.

## **The Portal Partnerships**

The Portal Partnership scheme is now well established with more than 10 partners of whom several now actively operates their portals.

2 new portal partners have signed up in 2017.

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 2016 the meetings were arranged in Leiden (May) and Gothenburg (December).

During both Portal Partners meetings a new initiative was discussed: the application for EU funding in order to collaboratively further develop the RC platform. In the Gothenburg meeting it was decided that, with support from and under the leadership of Leiden University, a proposal for funding would be prepared in the Call: Horizon 2020 – EINFRA-21-2017: Platform-driven e-infrastructure innovation; Universal discoverability of data objects and provenance. In March 2017 the proposal was submitted to the European Commission, with the title: ‘The Research Catalogue as a Federated E-infrastructure for the identification and utilization of Digital Research Objects’.

## **SAR - International Conference on Artistic Research: WRITING**

On 28-29 April 2016 our annual SAR conference took place in The Hague, hosted by Leiden University and the University of the Arts The Hague. This was in many respects a very successful conference. Many people showed an interest to contribute to the conference (the amount of proposal for contributions exceeded far beyond what could be accommodated), and many people participated in the strands, workshops and seminars, and attended the plenary keynotes and events (here too we had to disappoint those who tried to register after the registration had closed). Documentation about the conference – including a photo rapportage and video registrations of keynotes – can be obtained via the SAR website.

### **Other issues and initiatives to report**

#### *Adjustment of our Articles*

During the General Assembly in Helsinki we ask the membership to endorse an adjustment of the SAR Articles for the purpose of being eligible for status as an ANBI organization (*Foreign Public Welfare Institution*) in the Netherlands

#### *The 'Florence Principles'*

SAR was represented – by its vice-president Giaco Schiesser – in the ELIA artistic research working group, that prepared the so-called 'Florence Principles' on the doctorate in the arts. This is an important position paper and policy document – a point of reference for policymakers, university leaders, curriculum designers and research funding agencies. It is addressed to universities of art and science alike, helping the former to secure recognition for their endeavours (with national funding bodies, legislature, etc.) and helping the latter to learn about the research developments within the art university sector. The 'Florence Principles' are the result of a joint effort of representatives of the European League of the Institutes of the Arts (ELIA), the Society for Artistic Research (SAR), the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC) and European Association for Architectural Education (EAAE).

#### *SAR in Venice*

In the context of the 2017 Venice Biennale, SAR will present, on 6-7 June 2017, its portfolio of activities with information about the Research Catalogue, the Journal for Artistic Research, the annual SAR conferences, the different Portals supported by SAR via the Research Catalogue and the options for Membership. During three sessions (two on the 6th and one in the morning of the 7th) Executive Board members of SAR will give presentations on all SAR activities and discuss those activities with the participants. SAR in Venice is taking place as a so-called cameo event upon invitation by the Research Pavilion hosted by Uniarts Helsinki.

*Art and Research Funding: Expert Meeting of Funding Agencies initiated by the Society for Artistic Research – Autumn 2017, Vienna*

The aim of this event is to bring together agencies active in the field of art and research funding. The event will offer the opportunity to focus on shared interests, reflect experiences, talk about visibility and internationalisation, challenges and achievements in the field of procedures, documentation and disseminations of results and of course reviewing processes including such topics as a shared “catalogue of experts”.

At the event the agencies will present themselves with a focus on the potential development of shared values and criteria for the world of art and research in relation to funding and quality assessment. There will also be a presentation of the co-operation between the Norwegian Artistic Research Programme and SAR on the funding application system. In the context of this event some projects funded via the PEEK program will be presented.

Participants (confirmed interest): Austrian Science Fund (FWF) / PEEK, Danish Ministry of Culture, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), Norwegian Artistic Research Programme, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Swedish Research Council, Volkswagenstiftung, and Society for Artistic Research.

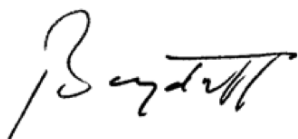
*SAR Correspondents*

During the GA in April 2016 we discussed our plan to establish a board of ‘SAR Correspondents’. These are people (artists/researchers) 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. Due to other work on the agenda of the Executive Board we did not manage yet to realize this plan. However, it is still high on the agenda of the board and will be initiated in 2017.

*SARA – Society for Artistic Research Announcement Service*

The establishment of an announcement service for our members (and others) through the Research Catalogue will be effected during the spring of 2017. Final details about handling have been discussed in the Board and a detailed description about conditions, format etc., are in preparation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henk Borgdorff', written in a cursive style.

Henk Borgdorff