

## OPEN CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

As a Belgian student of the master's degree in Art Education in Tilburg (The Netherlands), I research new ways that allow museum visitors to make contact with artworks. I am currently experimenting with a new method I developed for art encounters, which I also want to explore in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje. For this purpose, I am looking for six students with an open mind who want to experience art encounters in a slow, and more performative way.

My methodology is based on 'constellation work', also known as 'systemic work' or 'family constellations'. It is a therapeutic approach originally developed by German psychotherapist Bert Hellinger. It is often used to gain insight into the underlying dynamics of family relationships, organizations or other systems.

In a constellation session, participants, with the help of a facilitator, place representatives in a way that depicts the relationships among members of a system. This could, for example, be the client's family or the members of an organization. In this research project, the object of the relationship is a work of art. The arrangement provides a physical representation of the underlying dynamics and unspoken patterns within the relationship to a certain work of art.

Constellation work is based on the idea that within systems (family, organization, etc.) there are invisible dynamics and hidden patterns that can affect the well-being of individual members. In my experiments I assume that invisible dynamics are also present towards a work of art. These dynamics can manifest as inexplicable emotions, conflicts, tensions, etc... We can make these dynamics visible by representing the different aspects of a work, as participants.

My hypothesis is that by observing the setup, participants can gain insights into the underlying dimensions of a work of art and discover possibilities for interpretation for themselves. This creates a new way of connecting with a work of art. It requires you to slow down and step mindfully into the experience to truly be present with a work of art for a longer time with a small group of people.

My goal with these experiments is to create a new way for visitors to become involved and make space for the impact of an artwork on their emotional, intellectual and personal experience. It goes beyond passive observation and involves active participation. The aim is to give the participant a deep personal understanding of the meaning and aesthetics of a work. One not only observes the work of art, but also tries to understand what the different aspects of the work are, how it is created, what message(s) the work conveys and how each participant in the group relates to the work and what it means. evokes in him or her.

With this methodology I want to increase the appreciation of artistic actions by slowing down and raise the confidence in people to view art with focus and relate to it on a more personal level.

The aspects of the nature of this kind of art experiences are:

1. Attention, perception and reflection: looking closely at works of art and thinking about their meaning, soul and aesthetics (formal elements such as color, composition, shape, texture).
2. Interpretation: Giving meaning to the symbolism, themes and messages combined in the artwork.
3. Active Participation: Actively participating in the constellation methodology
4. Personal response: Sharing personal thoughts and emotions noticed by the artwork, and understanding the subjective experience of the viewer. Experiencing emotional reactions or reflection, in response to artworks.
5. Interaction and dialogue: opening up conversations about art, sharing perspectives and surprising others is what makes this a powerful dynamic experience.

What art experience does not pursue in this research is the following:

1. Contextualization: How the artwork relates to broader cultural, historical or social contexts. It examines the historical, cultural and social context in which the work of art was created, to understand its meaning.
2. Critical Analysis: The inevitability of the artistic choices the artist has made, combined with assessing the power of the work of art in conveying emotion of ideas.
3. Creation: Actively participating in the creation of art, through hands-on activities such as painting, sculpting or digital art, through collaborative projects.

I kindly invite you to step into this slow art experiment with an open mind.  
Very welcome to participate!

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