

ESSAYING ART: PRACTICE TUTORIAL ARTISTIC RESEARCH

REPORT



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Overview

form	: Practice tutorial 6 ECTS (168 hours / total period of 8 months)		
tutor	: Emily Huurdeman		
participants	: 4-6 first and second year students of master Artistic Research		
period	: September 2017 to June 2018		
structure	: 8 events and 8 meetings (40%)	:	3 hours per event and 5 hours meeting
	: 4 artistic contributions (40%)	:	5-10 minutes, 2 public and 2 private
	: 1 Online Pillow Book (20%)	:	4 short (300-500 words) theoretically underpinned formations

REPORT

Rapport of the Tutorial:

- + overall good attendance and motivation of the students
 - + course manual and documentation online was practical and useful
 - + 'Process Evaluation Criteria' was representative
 - dense course and heavy work load (I had to skip the 'readings', 'themes' and 'formulations', the students were unable to apply these to their own artistic research project because the research was underdeveloped, the basic academic skills were lacking, and they were unable to sufficiently position themselves in the field of Artistic Research)
 - low student number (when two are sick/absent only three are left, especially with the guest teachers it's a shame)
- better synchronization/connection to the core-curriculum (doubling of presentations and deadlines was unproductive)
- +/- long attention span of the course (difficulties with consistency of motivation and focussing on the research process, but a course extending across the other courses was considered productive and constructive, students remarked that it was a shame that the other classmates were not involved)
 - +/- loads of changes to the schedule and locations (changes were sometimes de-motivating, but the change of locations was a suggestion of the students and worked out very well)

OBSERVATIONS and QUESTIONS

Problems:

For artists the gap is too big from HBO to WO level (especially writing in the first block Art Studies)
For academics the gap is too big from theoretical background WO to art practice
For both artists and academics, it's hard to navigate the field of Artistic Research (unclear expectations, unclear position, lack of examples and teachers from the field)
Dichotomy between practice and theory in the curriculum (my generation, Fernanda and Cheil, and these students)

Questions:

Why isn't there a pre-master or schakel-jaar?
Are there feedback and evaluation moments organized?
would you be willing and able to support the continuation of Café Chercher by the students?
(financing through the Rietveld Making Things Public, and appointing study points)

1) Café Chercher events:

- + Good atmosphere
 - + Provided many practical examples of artistic research
 - + big success, opportunity to test artistic forms of research in progress
- not enough public (including co-students and professors, and students from different institutes)
organization could be better (send out information email earlier to the students)

Artistic contributions:

- + good attendance and process at Café Chercher (only one missing)
 - feedback and pre-presentation talks could be better/more structured
- did not work in the classroom (institutional context)
- 4 total is a lot

2) Meetings:

- + guest teachers were a big success, wide range and examples (Oscar Santillan, Christina Della Giustina, Amy Pickles, Alice Ladenburg) including workshops (Alice and Amy)
 - + one full day and process tracking thought the year was productive
 - + students enjoyed tracking each others work
 - + peer-feedback worked well, could be more structured / better facilitated (not only classical)
- institutional environment is not productive for discussing work
need for more personalized feedback on the research and work (perhaps also by guest teachers)
need for a manual/class on how to use the Pillowbook

Pillowbook Research Catalogue:

- + worked out for two of the five students
 - technical threshold was too big
 - not enough examples
 - connection practice / digital was meagre (no photographs, sketches, or voice recordings as proposed in the course manual)
 - too much had to skip readings, themes and formulations
- +/- loads of changes to the schedule and locations (but, the first part CC refection in a bar worked well, guest teacher in uva building and last part in VOX-POP or studio space worked out best)
- 4 sharing moments is a lot, perhaps one in the end

PROPOSAL

Practice Tutorial

This practice tutorial would be more effective when spread over two years:

- the first year is the introduction and familiarization with Artistic Research as field and practice (excursions, Guest teachers, two Café Chercher contributions, one Pillowbook on Artistic Research in the Research Catalogue) first semester topic artistic research) Better explanation for Pillowbook). Placing oneself in the field of Artistic Research.
- the second year is practice and applying: Focus on the research project, introduction of the four themes (unfinished, experiment, critical, speculative) and applying these to your own artistic research. Discovering individual artistic research strategies/methodologies/ forms.

or have a pre-master/ schakel-jaar

Café Chercher

Café Chercher can keep running every month at VOX-POP, only with contributions of the AR MA students (in combination with the practice tutorial) Otherwise Café Chercher will have to stop because of the organizational workload and lack of financing or drastically drop the amount of events and perhaps at a different (more informal and popular) location (Cinema of the Dam'd at OT301).

If continuing:

Café Chercher and artistic contributions

Café Chercher artistic contribution: clearer moments for discussing the content, handing in the information and evaluation afterwards.

Funding: either make it a foundation and ask for funding, or integrate with the Master Artistic Research

Meetings and Pillowbook:

Guest teachers stay for work discussion (give introduction, then return for practice)

The meetings should focus on the guest teachers, reflections on Café Chercher and the research in the Pillowbook (more peer-feedback and individual feedback on the on the content of the research and Pillowbook). The practice contributions should be in the studio space or at Café Chercher.

Personal evaluation:

Be more strict, consequent and consistent

Ask for follow-ups

Give individual feedback on the research and Pillowbook