

ON...HORIZON

NEWSLETTER 2

Highlights on Research and the Arts from EU4ART_differences

EDITORIAL

The EU4ART_differences newsletter is now at its second appointment, at a nodal moment when many steps and important initiatives for Third Cycle studies have been achieved by the Alliance. At the forefront of the spotlight, we have the Doctoral Summer School organized by the Fine Arts Academy in Rome and the beginning of pilot phase of the Third Cycle studies at HfBK Dresden.

With the second issue you will learn about the Doctoral Summer School *DIGITAL RITES and EMBODIED MEMORIES*, a meaningful encounter for the EU4ART_differences partners to experience a common research environment, soon after the pandemic. In Casa San Silvestro, a monastery built in a rural and spiritual landscape, senior and junior researchers, students, professors and administrative joined workshops and lectures, exploring creativity at the crossroads of neuroscience, artificial intelligence, gamification for cultural heritage, and cryptocurrencies — topics at the center of the most topical contemporary debates. This uncontaminated natural spot in which the Doctoral School took place — so close to Rome and ages far away from the frenetic life pace of the city — is indeed considered one of the main inspirational aspects by the students from the Hungarian University of Fine Arts, who reveal their impressions and thoughts about the effects of the Summer School in their own art practice.

Among the guest speakers of the Summer School, Raitis Smits delivered a talk that explored the use of data and immersive technology in the most recent project *Atmospheric Forest* realized with Rasa Smite, with whom he works as a duo since the early ages of media art. Smits is a member of EU4ART_differences, the Art Academy of Latvia (LMA), and founder of RIXC the Center for Art and Science (Riga). In this issue, Rasa Smite joined him in an interview that will bring you closer to their latest work, while shedding light on important positions related to art and research. Our newsletter, *On...HORIZON*, concludes with news related to a recent and important achievement for the EU4ART_differences project. HfBK Dresden, spearhead of EU4ART_differences has inaugurated the pilot phase of their Third Cycle studies. Their report overlaps with the present phase of the project and the tools provided in support of students' studies and methodologies.

DIGITAL RITES AND EMBODIED MEMORIES

A Journey Back from the EU4ART_differences Summer School



Do we need digital rites, and how can we shape them? Are our digital experiences translating into embodied memories? These questions traversed the the Doctoral Summer School, *DIGITAL RITES and EMBODIED MEMORIES*, a milestone of the EU4ART_differences project (6–9 September 2022).

A group of young researchers and professors from different European capitals met in the Casa San Silvestro monastery in Montecompatri, a convent and corner of unspoiled nature located a few kilometres from Rome. In this bucolic and spiritual frame, an intensive programme curated by Professor Franco Ripa di Meana (Work Package 4) put forward alternating webinars, workshops, and moments for sharing individual research. Day after day, participants' individual experiences and researches came together in a choral ritual that was symbiotically connected across physical and virtual spaces.

The Summer School was a crucial moment for gathering the first results of the European Project and for the identification of meeting points that will define and inform the development of EU4ART_differences in the upcoming year. Our key collaborations started with joining the Society for Artistic Research (SAR), the adoption of new digital tools, and the creation of new figures of researchers and junior scientists. All of these achievements have contributed to art practices that are based on collective laboratories and to the building of a common research environment. Such aspects constitute the pivotal points that will become the focus of our project in the subsequent phases. Furthermore, with the Doctoral Summer School is paradigmatic of the very 'differences' that shape the EU4ART_differences project. Especially so, as the event reached a catalyzing moment for international reflection on the meaning and role of Artistic Research, especially in the perspective of a joint re-launch of Third Cycle studies in the arts.

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DOCTORAL SUMMER SCHOOL | STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

Notes from Budapest



DIGITAL RITES and EMBODIED MEMORIES was a seminal event that deeply contributed to introducing artistic research to students who are approaching art professions and doctoral studies. In this sense the Summer School was organized to explore current trends that involve technology, and research possibilities with its methodological implications. "Workshops and the entire time we spent together at the Summer School was a really effective inter and cross disciplinary opportunity. The theory classes articulated fresh contemporary viewpoints around neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence, posthumanism and cultural heritage in the light of gaming" (Kitti Klaudia Harmati).

Keynote speeches and discussions with eminent scholars from different academic fields were held in a Monastery in Montecompatri, which symbolical meaning covered an important part for every participant: "We were locked away from the city on a hill in a monastery, to me it was a true source of inspiration" (Attila Mézes). Even for the course of the events it had impact: "Genius loci, the monastery itself played a big role, as it always caused some issues for example with the Wi-Fi or electricity; of course it's still a question if it was a real problem or a miracle" (Kitti Klaudia Harmati).

Afternoon workshops created socialization moments making a shift between working as an individual and as a group in an interrelated network, where performative aspects and unexpected elements emerged. Indeed "My research can also be considered improvised because I don't know where or how far I am going with it; I just go on. There are times during my everyday activities when I get the inspiration to write a song, as happened in Monte Compatri at the summer school, due to the regular mention of GAI" (Attila Mézes).

"In conclusion, I think it was a brilliant opportunity for us to participate in these programs. We experienced and learned a lot during the five day" (Kitti Klaudia Harmati).

DATA, EXPERIENCE, AND MEDIATION

An interview with Rasa Smite and Raitis Smits



Rasa Smite and Raitis Smits talk about their new media and cross-disciplinary work. Since the mid-90s, Smite and Smits have been working as a duo. Engaging with digital media, their pioneering work operates at the intersection of art, science, and emerging technologies. Smite and Smits are key founders of RIXC, the Center for Art and Science in Riga, an important institution established in May 2000 which aims to promote new forms of cultural and artistic expression by adopting approaches to new media. Ever since the beginning of their career, their work and research has had an impact on artistic practices on an international scale.

Raitis Smits is a member of EU4ART_differences project for the Art Academy of Latvia. For the 2022 EU4ART_differences Summer School in Riga, Smits delivered a lecture within a panel on Neuroscience and the Humanities. Taking his artistic and curatorial practice as a point of departure, Smits discussed the use of immersive technologies in the arts. His presentation touched upon key questions, such as the implications of VR and AR in education, and the role of meaning at the intersection of data and new technologies.

In this interview, Raitis Smits and Rasa Smite guide us through their latest work, titled *Atmospheric Forest* (2019) — a n immersive installation and research project reflecting on climate change in the pine tree forest of Pfywald in the Swiss Alps, touching on the intersections between artistic research, data, and ecology.

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PILOT PHASE FOR 3RD STUDY CYCLE AT HFBK DRESDEN

Notes from a successful launch



The Dresden EU4ART_differences team at HfBK started the pilot phase for their third study cycle on 17 October 2022 under postgraduates whose participation in the intense one-year program is supported through a small fellowship.

After an organizational kick-off, the main part started with a lecture by German artist and art theorist Stefan Römer, who presented his third publication "DeConceptualize - Zur Dekonstruktion des Konzeptuellen in Kunst, Film, und Music." This follows "Strategien des Fake" (2001) and "Inter-esse" (2014). The next day, Stefan Römer led a half-day workshop for the fellows giving input and impulses for their own Artistic Research practice.

The following two half days were reserved for the presentations of the fellows who are pursuing their own artistic research throughout the pilot year following various artistic approaches. The entire week also included a seminar by Till A. Baumhauer on the principles of Artistic Research and Anja Ziegler, the director of the HfBK Angelica, on how to do library research.

Finally, the group was able to welcome Angelica Speroni, an ABA Roma colleague and doctoral fellow, who gave a presentation on "Intermediality, between artistic research and communication", this session was done hybrid in order to open it to alliance colleagues. Angelica is involved in the EU4ART project and shared findings of her current PhD research.

The following block event of the pilot phase will take place from 5-9 December 2022, joining public lectures and workshops for the pilot phase participants.

On the project website, it is possible to view the concept and implementation of the so-called Lab for Artistical Research at the HfBK Dresden.

[HFBK LAB](#)

INFO

"On... HORIZON" is EU4ART_differences' newsletter, a new channel for the dissemination of artistic research, exhibitions, symposia, and other activities organized by the Alliance members. The newsletter fulfills the project's mission of disseminating Artistic Research in the European context, while reaching out an international community of expert and nonexpert audience who share an interest for the arts and their role in contemporary society.

The EU4ART_differences team conceives the newsletter as a space for dissemination and knowledge transfer, publishing content that concerns the Alliance and each participating academy.

