

Do not fear silence.

Artistic research is a way to deepen artistic practice opening for a more transparent and reflexive way of working and thinking. It may not suit all artists, but for many, it works as a critical space to renegotiate what it means to be an artist in 2023, to find the agency of art and artistic work, and empower the artist by proposing a break with the role of being a content producer for the experience industry. It means an end to the division of labor where the artists deliver artefacts to a system of art, film, dance, media scholars, critiques, experts, and curators to interpret, judge, sell, and evaluate the art. Artistic research challenges artists to recognize the value of creative work and self-organized dialogue. Producing text is a necessary step. Writing is an essential step to understanding the work itself. The text does not necessarily have to be a paper. It could be spoken. *The vocal dialogue is also text. Old dilemma. Can we trust the written word? So many things disappear when we write them down.* Writing together using memory work techniques is one way to go. For some it can take time to overcome the embarrassment and shame that simple writing exercises can release. Let time pass. Do not fear silence.

The Socratic method is the best in the days of AI-generated text entities: To talk, To ask questions. The dialogue goes together with sharing and can be a way out of the isolation and loneliness that limits many artists' practice. By sharing knowledge, research projects build bridges between disciplines and cultures of theory and practice.

To take a step back and watch. *Theoria* is a Greek term that means to observe from a distance. One way to start is to divide students into pairs and propose that they walk and talk.

(the **peripatetic** school.) Often it works to swap roles and make the students defenders and explainers of the other artist's work. To uproot the projects that are growing and put them back again. Out of juxtaposing work and creating an atmosphere of sharing, the research questions will surface.

Nils Claesson PhD

Responsible for the course The Impact of Research

Stockholm University of the Arts