Norges musikkhøgskole
Norwegian Academy of Music

Reflection-Based
Artistic Professional Practice

NORDART
Arne Nordheim-senteret

Workshop 3: Coming to Terms: Mapping terminology, locating fruitful tensions, and applying models as lenses for reflection

In this workshop, Jennifer Torrence will present a series of strategies for reflection using models (spectrums, graphs, spreadsheets, word splashes, etc.) which have been used in her own research projects. She will share how she uses these models as lenses for reflection, and in what ways they have challenged, redirected, and/or clarified her research.

Workshop Research Questions:
- What are the key terms related to my research project (including concepts, characteristics, methods, practices, processes, etc.)? And how do these terms relate to each other?
- How, when, where do these terms appear within my research processes and my artistic results?
- How might modelling these terms assist in understanding the expressions and behaviours of my research project? Does it reveal or confirm any areas I haven't yet fully reflected upon?

Method:
The workshop participants will work individually and in pairs to reflect on their own project's unique collection of terms (including concepts, characteristics, methods, practices, pieces, people, processes, and so on). Through the presented modelling strategies, as well as others invented and/or shared by the participants, each person will have the opportunity to experiment with these tools and to assess if/how they might assist in the following areas of research (as well as others):

1) Articulating the frames, horizon, and limits of the project, and placing this frame within a larger context, field, or discipline

2) Finding areas of fruitful tension between terms (tension being the place where movement is, where something is at stake!)

3) Helping to build an appropriate and usable language/vocabulary for reflection

4) Identifying where the real research is happening (it might not be where you thought it was), and assisting in a redirection towards that place

5) Identifying gaps in the research questions, methods, reflections

6) Articulating recurring processes, practices, patterns

7) Articulating complex and unruly research findings

Artistic research and reflection are messy practices. This mess is not only normal, it's often a sign that strong research is underway. The models presented and developed during this workshop are tools for thinking and reflecting. Despite their image of clarity, models do not and must not insist on notions of tidiness within artistic research. Instead, models offer a space to reflect on difference and patterns within an often unruly and irreducible complexity.