


The island discussing literature and text-based art, concluded that these practices have an obvious and legitimate place in the Artistic Research archipelago. Though institutionally weak it still represents an interesting practice (island) both in terms of techniques/methods and research potential. The practice is strong as 'production-practice', as a wide range of texts, (novels, poetry, essays, scientific papers, song lyrics, scriptwriting etc.) are produced and consumed constantly, but the research aspects and the research potential is poorly investigated and institutionalized. Still the practice has so much to offer the research community. The group stranded on the island made some reflections about that...



Literature and text-based art is in its core an imaginative and poetic practice. In terms of methodology, it offers progressive and innovative approaches, which puts the creative researcher at the forefront. The practice questions and challenges the idea that there is a direct line running from thought to writing or speech. That thinking and language are the same, that there is a direct link between the mind and text. This has been questioned and challenged in modern (language) philosophy and should serve as a condition for all text-based research. As a matter of fact, it opens language to become more than a mere representation of thought; it provides for the opportunity to use writing as a tool. It provides for hybridizing the relationships between art and writing.

It liberates language and text from having the analytical role in research. This premise identifies literature and text-based art as the hidden treasure chest in the archipelago. When

identified and dug up, we will discover how the discipline has experience with using the imaginative and poetic as an investigative tool, how writing as practice-as doing, and making-serves as a research activity, and how writing has the power of hybridity (it is poetic, cognitive and reflexive).

But no practice is an island. Literature and text-based art struggle with lack of epistemological self-awareness. To the degree that such an awareness exists, is it a loan from other practices? Literature is still considered mainly to be a production-based practice. Are too many of the practitioners - in particular novelists and poets-anti-institutionally biased? If so, how does that effect the research culture?

The group on the island identified the need for the practice to immediately set sail and connect with other harbours, to learn productive ways to institutionalize, but also to broaden the awareness/knowledge among other disciplines (islands) about the practice's strengths.

Source: Braidt, Andrea B. - Stephen Broad - Florian Dombois et al. *Unislanding Artistic Research. A Decolonial Dialogue. ELIA Artistic Research Platform Meeting 2020* ELIA 2021 <https://cdn.ymaws.com/elia-artschools.org/resource/resmgr/files/artistic_research_platform_meeting/Unislanding_Artistic_Research.pdf>