

Questioning Qualities

Call for presentations

Under the heading “Questioning Qualities” this year’s *Sensuous Knowledge* conference will focus upon values within and criteria for an appraisal of quality in artistic research - including the overall question of whether these differ from values and criteria for quality within the arts themselves. We will encourage discussions of social and political values in artistic research projects, questions of ethics, commercial and non-commercial qualities, institutional criteria for quality and the relationship – or maybe clash – between aesthetic and cognitive values. As in the former conferences the general aim is a double one: to develop ways of talking about, analyzing and evaluating examples of artistic research, and to consider the special character of cognition related to artistic creativity.

The annual international *Sensuous Knowledge* conferences, arranged since 2003 by Bergen National Academy of the Arts (Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen, KHiB) and supported by the Norwegian Research Council, are known for their distinctive format: A limited number of artists and designers engaged in higher art and design education – not more than 70 in all – meet at Solstrand Hotel, set in a spectacular landscape close to Bergen.

The programme offers three significant key note speeches, but first and foremost time for group discussions of selected examples of artistic research. The cases are presented by some of the group members – experienced researchers as well as newcomers to the field. One of the most significant characteristics of the conference is that delegates are attached to small discussion groups with whom they work intensively over a three-day period, thereby enhancing the discussions to progress during the presentations. A former delegate has described *Sensuous Knowledge* as “A high-powered conversation or ideas exchange”.

With this we want to invite practitioners from all art disciplines, including design and the performing arts, to submit proposals for presentations of completed or ongoing artistic research projects for the 2008 *Sensuous Knowledge* conference. This is not a call for theoretical contributions to discussions about values and criteria, but for presentations of artistic research projects that may engender such discussions within the groups. This may reflect ways in which the initiator of a project has been confronted by questions regarding the notion of quality during the working process.

Please send a 1000-word abstract clearly describing:

- 1) the theme or research question of the project and the main points of the presentation,
- 2) the issues that the presentation is intended to raise in the discussion,
- 3) thoughts on how this presentation might be linked to the overall theme of the conference,
- 4) the character of the presentation, especially what kind of visual or acoustic material you may want to present,
- 5) your own professional background in relation to the project.

New deadline for submitting proposals for presentations is **15 May**.
If selected, you will receive a notification of acceptance by **28 May**.

Please note that 30 minutes will be the maximum available time for each presentation.

A preliminary conference program will be launched at the beginning of May.
For more information visit the conference website: www.sensuousknowledge.org

Please submit your proposal to sensuous.knowledge@khib.no

Information about Solstrand Hotel & Bad: www.solstrand.com

Bergen National Academy of the Arts (KHiB) is one of the two independent institutions of higher education in the visual arts and design in Norway. KHiB has three departments: Dept of Fine Art, Dept of Design and Dept of Specialised Art. Students can follow a three-year BA and a two-year MA course within the following areas: Visual Art, Interior Architecture, Furniture Design, Spatial Design, Visual Communications, Photography, Printmaking, Ceramics and Textiles. A part-time course in creative curatorial practice has recently been established. Research fellows at PhD level are included in the academic staff. KHiB has 300 students and a staff of 100, full-time and part-time.

www.khib.no



Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen
Bergen National Academy of the Arts