

Reflection, Relevance, Responsibility

Call for presentations

We would like to invite practitioners from all art disciplines, including design and the performing arts, to submit proposals for presentations at the sixth Sensuous Knowledge Conference.

Under the heading “Reflection, Relevance, Responsibility” this year’s conference will focus upon three important aspects of artistic research. Often critical reflection is put forward as one of the differences between artistic practice and artistic research, and promoted as an alternative to the scientific conventions of thinking and writing. However, very little investigation has been done by us on the notion of reflection – what is it expected to contain and convey? With the rapid and unforeseen global changes to our existence, surely we have to look up from our own, potentially narcissistic reflection where we only see ourselves mirrored.

In the previous Sensuous Knowledge conferences the aim has been to develop ways of talking about, analysing and evaluating examples of artistic research, and to consider the special character of cognition related to artistic creativity. This year we want to explore these questions further and, through your contributions, shift the debates into a more urgent context. How do we as artistic researchers, through critical reflection, address and engage with what we see around us? How can artistic research make a meaningful and relevant contribution outside of itself? And how can it acknowledge the responsibility of art and research towards the world outside the academy?

The annual international Sensuous Knowledge conferences, arranged since 2003 by Bergen National Academy of the Arts (Kunsthøgskolen i Bergen, KHiB) and supported by The Research Council of Norway, are known for their distinctive format: About 70 artists and designers involved in higher art and design education meet for three days in the spectacular surroundings at Solstrand, close to Bergen.

The programme offers significant keynote speeches, and first and foremost time for group discussions of selected examples of artistic research projects. The presentations are made by some of the group members themselves – experienced researchers as well as newcomers to the field. One of the most significant traits of the conferences is that the participants stay together in their designated groups during all three days, thereby enhancing the discussions to a deeper level of engagement.

Please send us one A4 page (two maximum) describing

- 1) the theme or research question of your proposal and the main points of the presentation,
- 2) the issues that the presentation intends to raise in the discussion,
- 3) the character of the presentation, especially what kind of visual or acoustic material you may want to present,
- 4) your professional practice background in relation to your proposal.

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

Proposals should be sent before **13 May** to sensuous.knowledge@khib.no

You will be informed whether your proposal has been accepted by **1 June**.

A general invitation to participate in the conference with details about registration, conference fee, etc. will be distributed around the beginning of April. A preliminary programme for the conference will be launched in the first part of June.

See reports from the earlier conferences at www.sensuousknowledge.org

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 take a three-year Bachelor degree and a two-year Master degree in the following areas: visual art; interior architecture; furniture design; spatial design; visual communications; photography; printmaking; ceramics and textiles. A part time study in creative curating is also offered. 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

