

Editorial

A Gathering of Artistic Research: From *New Science* to *Nameless Science*

“We must say, then, that the poets were the *sense* of mankind, and the philosophers its *intellect*. Thus, what Aristotle said in particular about the individual is also true in general about humankind: ‘Nothing is found in the intellect which was not first found in the senses’, *Nihil est in intellectu quin prius fuerit in sensu*. This means that the human mind can only understand a thing after the senses have furnished an impression of it, which is what today’s metaphysicians call an occasion. For the mind uses the intellect whenever it ‘gathers’ something insensible from a sense impression, and this act of gathering is the proper meaning of the Latin verb *intelligere*, to understand.” (Vico, *New Science*)¹

This issue of *Art & Research* represents a ‘gathering’ of issues and experiences in artistic research as manifest in papers and artworks presented on the ‘occasion’ of significant international conferences and symposia dedicated to artistic research held between May and December 2008: *Arts Research: The State of Play*, Gradcam, Dublin, 8-9 May, an interdisciplinary conference [[link to download full conference programme pdf](#)]; *Who is Afraid of Artistic Research?*, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD), Dundee, 22 May; *Artistic Research*, The Iceland Art Academy (LHI), Reykjavik, 3-4 October; *Talkin’ Loud & Sayin’ Something - Four Perspectives of Artistic Research*, a symposium organized by Johan Öberg (University of Gothenburg) as part of the 10th ELIA Biennial Conference, Gothenburg, 29 October - 1 November [http://www.elia-artschools.org/biennial/symposias/symposium_1/index]; *Nameless Science*, Cooper Union, New York, 12 December 2008 [http://www.apexart.org/events/slager_symposium.htm]. The symposium at Cooper Union was held on the occasion of the *Nameless Science* exhibition at Apexart (10 December 2008 – 31 January 2009) [<http://www.apexart.org/exhibitions/slager.htm>] curated by Henk Slager, Dean, Utrecht Graduate School of Visual Art and Design and co-editor of *MaHKUzine: Journal of Artistic Research*. The texts here are simultaneously published in a printed version in *MaHKUzine, Journal of Artistic Research* # 7, Summer 2009 [www.mahku.nl]. The publication of this project is supported in part by the Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

This issue is also published in collaboration with *Art Monitor: The Swedish Journal for Artistic Research*, in the reprinting of the essay ‘Catch Me If You Can Chances and Challenges of Artistic Research’ by Mika Hannula and his interview with Jacqueline Donachie which first appeared *Art Monitor* 4, 2008, which accompanied the exhibition *Talkin’ Loud & Sayin’ Something - Four Perspectives of Artistic Research*, at Göteborg Museum of Art (24 September – 16 November).

This issue also includes a research project report by Erik Andersson investigating the parallels between artistic and scientific research methodologies in a collaborative exhibition context, a revised translation of 'Artistic Research and the Poetics of Knowledge' by Kathrin Busch (originally published in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Researcher*, AS Mediatijdschrift, No. 179 2007) and the artwork *Crash and Burn* a series of questions, statements and provocations by Peter McCaughey.

The international collaborations with *Art Monitor* (Gothenburg) and *MaHKUzine* (Utrecht) marks an exciting new development for *Art & Research* and future collaborative publications and projects are planned with both *Art Monitor* and *MaHKUzine* as well as with *brumaria*, Madrid and The Institute for Contemporary Arts Research (IFCAR), Zurich.

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This issue of *Art & Research* is dedicated to the memory of Claude Schumacher (1936-2009), Emeritus Professor of Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow and former editor of *Theatre Research International*.

Ross Birrell
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¹ Giambattista Vico, 'Poetic Wisdom' [363], *New Science: Principles of the New Science Concerning the Common Nature of Nations. Third edition, thoroughly corrected, revised and expanded by the author*, translated by David March (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2001), p. 136.