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Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

*The New
Handbook for
Arts-Based Research*



Riksbankens
Jubileumsfond



The New Handbook for Arts-Based Research

THE HANDBOOK IS A MAJOR collection of new writings on research in the creative and performing arts by leading authorities from around the world. The collection is edited by *Michael Biggs* and *Henrik Karlsson*, and funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

The aim of the book is to provide both a theoretical and practical approach to resolving some of the issues that have arisen during the establishment of this subject in the last decade. It is written both for individual researchers, research supervisors and doctoral candidates; and for research managers and policy-makers in research councils and universities.

The book addresses the trans-national communication difficulties arising from terminological and ontological differences in arts-based research, the variety of views on what constitutes arts-based research, what it should be and its potential contribution. In so doing the book addresses traditional and non-traditional concepts of knowledge, its relationship to professional practice, and its outcomes and audiences. It will offer recommendations on these issues that have been discussed in various forums over the last two decades, thereby making an original and significant contribution by setting down a framework for resolving some of these issues.

The book benefits from contributions from all

of the major constituencies in arts-based research. The contributions are located in the contemporary intellectual environment of research in the arts and more widely in the universities, in the strategic and political environment of national research funding, and in the international environment of trans-national cooperation and communication. Each main section of the book is prefaced by a critical overview and response to the issues raised, enabling the book to inform decision-making by policy-makers and managers.

Preliminary Table of Contents

I. Introduction

II. Arts, Society & Academia

III. Foundations of Research

IV. Representation of Research

V. Methods

VI. Doctorate

VII. Applications

Issues that are addressed include:

- What is arts-based knowledge, what is the relationship of traditional and non-traditional models of knowledge generation and management, and what are the consequences for an ontology of arts-based research?
- What is the relationship of language to knowledge, what kind of knowledge arises from

practices, and what can be said about non-verbal understandings?

- Who are the audiences for arts-based research, what is the relationship of the experiencing individual and the arts communities, how is arts knowledge disseminated and accumulated?
- How are examples of arts-based research to be identified, what characterises this type of research and what is its relationship to traditional methods from other disciplines, what is the relationship of studio practice to research, how do representational practices affect understanding and communication, what does “showing” show us?
- What is the role of the individual researcher and their relationship to the research, what do critical reflection and documentation contribute, how should we deal with experience, subjectivity and interestedness?
- What are the requirements of doctoral research, its conduct and its archiving and dissemination, what characterises the arts-based PhD, what skills are required of the supervisor and the candidate, and how do we assess quality?

The Handbook is expected to be published at the end of 2009.

