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ABSTRACT to 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on Arts-based Research and Artistic Research. Rethinking arts-based-research, artistic research – and global/local communities

Possible sub-themes:

- Artistic research and belonging to communities
- Artistic research and diversified communities of scholarship
- Artistic research and the norms of communities

***Research Paper: The Potential of Locating in Artistic Research***

Instead of starting my research with the concept or theory, I have begun with the three-dimensional fine art practice. Due to this, my methodology is practice-led (Candy 2006) and artistic research (Slager 2012). I utilize both the operational and conceptual methods of artistic research, but, above all, the artistic research method gives me a chance to examine from the participant's point of view. I research in the middle of events of art practice.

In order to demonstrate the method of practice-led and artistic research, I will present a project called *Three-Dimensional Research Presentation* (2013). This project is a closing production part of my doctoral thesis, *Inside and Around: Three-dimensional Practice in Visual Art* (2015), in which I ask how a three-dimensional artwork evolves. My main research material constituted itself during the practice-led process of artistic research. The finished artworks I presented in two exhibitions. However, the ends of the art processes constituted only a small part of my research material. The art-making processes, which contain a lot of sensory and embodiment, was also challenging to disassemble by the means based on reason and linearity. For this, I needed the artistic thinking (Varto 2008; Valkeapää 2011).

In *Three-Dimensional Research Presentation*, I presented most of the documents of my art-making and research processes: sketches, photographs, diary entries, conference presentations, written articles and the finished artworks. I was able to see and experience both the theoretical and practical research material in the same space and at the same time. I analyzed the research material by the very same means I produced it. The artistic thinking includes recognizing and identifying phenomena in tangible experiences. I touched and saw what I was thinking. I saw it also

in relation to other forms, and I could all the time perceive the evolving entity tangibly. It can be said that my research is based on arts, but, in addition to this, the art practice led the theoretical analysis. I wandered in the midst of my data and, at the same time, I tested my thoughts in the experiences of material and spatial thinking.

Thinking through action is always located to the specific time and place (Vadén 2004). It is a singular and unique event and bound to one body. Despite this, *Three-Dimensional Research Presentation* indicates that art practice-led research also locates in the social, cultural and historical frame of reference. This can be justified by the fact, that art-making is one of our cultural practices (Carroll 1988). However, the actor must first be especially somewhere before she/he can find a broader vision. Therefore, it can be concluded, that the borders between local and global communities blur in artistic research.