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Creative Rewilding

- art as research and research as art

How to be wilder while creating? How to reach uncontrolled, unrestrained states in art making? What controls and restrains us? These questions I have been trying to answer in my doctoral research and this research as an artistic process I would like to present during the *4th Conference on Arts-based Research and Artistic Research*.

Etymologically, wildness is associated with a wild animal. The word wild, which occurs in the old English as *Wilde*, means *in the natural state, uncultivated, undomesticated*.¹ I call my workshops Creative Rewilding. The *rewilding* concept, besides conservation biology, is used by anarcho-primitivists. For them, *rewilding is about overcoming human domestication and returning to behavior inherent in human wildness. Though often associated with primitive skills and learning knowledge of wild plants and animals, it emphasizes the development of the senses and fostering deepening personal relationships with members of other species and the natural world*.² In my doctoral research, I use a term Creative Rewilding – as the search for uncontrolled, unrestrained, unrestricted creative states in group settings in low populated areas.

My research is based on the Creative Rewilding Workshops facilitated by me. Researching and facilitating workshops are a part of the artistic process for me. My work is *not about researching in order to produce an artwork; the work is the research*.³ The research itself with its rhythms and routines is a work of art.

My presentation addresses the sub-theme *Arts-based research and/or artistic research and the norms of communities*. Creative Rewilding meetings are about rethinking and challenging the norms of communities and establishing new norms. In

¹ Wild. In *Online Etymology Dictionary*. Retrived March 17, 2016 from <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=wild>.

² Rewilding. In *DBpedia*. Retrived March 17, 2016 from [http://dbpedia.org/page/Rewilding_\(anarchism\)](http://dbpedia.org/page/Rewilding_(anarchism)).

³ Busch, K. (2009 Spring). Artistic Research and the Poetics of Knowledge, *Art & Research. A Journal of Ideas, Contexts and Methods*, 2(2).

my research, I am using *artistic means to analyze the present day and its social conditions and their structures*.⁴

In my presentation, I will give a short introduction to the theoretical part of my dissertation with the focus on the ideas of two philosophers: Friedrich Nietzsche and Arne Naess and theoretical biologist - Jakob von Uexküll. Subsequently, I will present research question, research methods and explain the artistic process of my research.

⁴ Busch, K. (2009 Spring). Artistic Research and the Poetics of Knowledge, *Art & Research. A Journal of Ideas, Contexts and Methods*, 2(2).