

Artistic agency, cultural participation and disability

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Collaboration has become characteristic for much of the contemporary art practices in the 21st century. Many collaborative art projects, in particular, address the concerns of marginalized community groups, such as people with disabilities, focusing on social issues in order to strive towards developing politically aware community events or programs. While many projects aim inherently building a more just future for people with disabilities, there is a need for critical analysis of these projects. This presentation explores and critiques different contemporary and collaborative art practices with people with disabilities. The questions of normalcy, agency and ability in cultural participation are explored theoretically and through practical examples. Questions are raised around who creates the community and by what means, the politics behind defining the participatory and collaborative groups of people with disabilities, and whose interests are being met as a result of collaboration.

Bio:

Dr. Mira Kallio-Tavin works as a senior university lecturer of international art education and is the Head of Research in the Department of Art and the chair of the international masters' program *Nordic Visual studies and Art education (NoVA)* at Aalto University, Finland. Kallio-Tavin has developed arts-based research methodology within social context and in relation to the questions of dialogue, community, ethics and philosophy of contemporary art and its education. Her research area focuses on questions of diversity, disability studies, social justice, critical animal studies, embodiment, and art education beyond anthropocentrism.