ADSA 2006 Being There: Before, During and After

Practice Research/Research as Performance

Since the 1980s, ADSA has sponsored continuing discussion and activity around the issue of Practice Research/Research as Performance, including the work done for the (unsuccessful) LERN research cluster in 2004. This activity acknowledges what are by now quite distinct, and in some ways, competing approaches and emphases within the field.

We propose a series, or 'thread' of activities around the 2006 ADSA conference, with a view to maintaining this momentum. These activities would be framed by a discussion paper being prepared by Alison Richards—the 'next installment' of her review of Research as Performance in Australia. Proposed activities include:

A key panel on 'the state of the nation', addressing developments in practice research in Australia and internationally.

Panel discussions/debates on 'hot' topics in this field, and in response to questions such as:
- Creative Arts or Cultural Industries—is any scholarship still 'pure'?
- Scholars and genre—does practice research mean 'experimental' practice?
- The demise of the 'old scholar': documentation, analysis, history and practice research;
- Whatever happened to popular culture? Practice research, commodity and community;
- Dangerous Interface: ethics, opportunity and intellectual property;
- What are we looking at? Practice-based Higher Degree Research supervision and examination;
- Is 'the live' a dead issue? Performance and new media;
- Publication, promotion and peer esteem: Responding to the new Research Quality Framework.


Formal or 'dummy formal' evaluation or assessment of works put forward for peer review.

Performances open to discussion and feedback.
A key focus of the thread will be the differences in approach to the critique and analysis of works, driven by the variables of context (mode, medium, genre, aim, skill base, conditions of production) of that work. In particular, what are the critical demands arising from a distinction between practice framed as research, and work framed as (perhaps) art?

The panel convenor will circulate a 'think piece' as a stimulus to those with an interest in the area.

If you are interested in getting involved in this activity thread, please contact Alison Richards (contact below).

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