

# Ethics in artistic research – a guide

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Prepared by a working group appointed by Universities Norway's Strategic Unit for Art, Design and Architecture (UHR-KDA).

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# 1 Introduction

This guide is aimed at academic staff who conduct artistic research at universities and university colleges. The guide is intended to help them take responsibility for the impact of artistic research – on colleagues, audiences and other persons, the environment and society more broadly – while also supporting the role of art in society.

The guide is also aimed at universities and university colleges that hold institutional responsibility for training students, PhD candidates and employees, and responsibility for ensuring that everyone involved in artistic research is familiar with ethics in the field.

In the Norwegian public sphere, artists are generally not given political, aesthetic or ethical guidelines (the ‘arm’s length’ principle). However, in artistic research conducted in higher education institutions, ethical perspectives must be addressed.

This guide is not a prescriptive set of rules but rather offers perspectives and encourages awareness and reflection regarding how artistic research is planned, conducted and disseminated. These processes require many considerations to be seen in context and balanced, including the interests of affected parties and communities, the need to safeguard freedom of expression, and the free and critical role of art in society. The environment and natural world also need to be considered. This requires a reflective stance on personal motivations, acknowledging that human considerations and needs may not always be the guiding principle. It is also important to reflect on the fact that ethics in this context operates within a Western epistemological paradigm.

Artistic research takes place both inside and outside of educational institutions. This guide is aimed at universities and university colleges that employ teaching and research staff based on artistic qualifications. According to the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUC Act), institutions must ensure staff are informed about recognised ethical principles for artistic research. In a teaching and research context, ethical reflection often enhances the relevance of projects. The guide aims to help institutions and individual staff members fulfil this responsibility.

Ethical thinking in artistic research changes and evolves. This guide is not comprehensive and should be periodically revised and updated in line with developments in the field. Individuals engaged in artistic research must reflect on ethics in their work and be able to contribute to developing the understanding of ethics in artistic research.

## 2 Key aspects of artistic research in Norway

In Norway, the concept of artistic research was first introduced in 1995 through the shared Act relating to Universities and University Colleges (UUC Act), which covered academic, artistic and professional programmes. The preparatory work for the Act explains the term 'artistic research' by stating that the 'artistic programmes must be closely connected with outstanding artistic research' just as 'academic programmes must be based on the most up-to-date research'<sup>2</sup>.

The term 'artistic research' thus refers to an activity that is particularly linked to the performing or creative arts. The UUC Act considers the term 'artistic research' on par with the term 'research', which is associated with academic programmes.

Universities Norway has defined artistic research as follows<sup>3</sup>:

'Artistic research encompasses artistic processes that lead to a publicly available artistic output. This work may also include explicit reflection on the development and presentation of the artistic output.'

This guide is based on this established understanding of artistic research in Norway:

- Artistic research is the independent contribution of the performing and creative arts to knowledge production<sup>4</sup>
- Artistic practice, methods and processes are at the core of artistic research<sup>4</sup>
- Artistic research is shared, allowing peers to follow the working methods and reflections that develop, and new questions that arise through the artistic processes<sup>4</sup>
- Reflection and sharing of artistic research can be both implicit and explicit<sup>3</sup>
- The term artistic research is considered on par with the term research in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities<sup>5</sup>
- However, artistic research differs significantly from research in that it is grounded in artistic quality and methods rather than scholarly quality and methods<sup>6</sup>

As a result, the requirements and guidelines applying to 'research' do not necessarily apply to teaching and research staff employed on the basis of their artistic expertise, because their work in artistic research is linked to artistic quality and methods.

This has particular consequences, including in matters related to the concept of 'research ethics':

- Artistic research is not exempt from laws and guidelines relating to ethics, but artistic research is partly subject to a different ethical framework than research in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. This is discussed in sections 3, 4 and 5.
- Artistic research can use hybrid approaches that combine artistic and scholarly methods. and may be part of interdisciplinary collaborations with other research fields, e.g. natural science and technology, medicine and health sciences, social sciences and humanities. In such cases, legislation and guidelines relating to research ethics apply. This is discussed in Section 6.

<sup>2</sup> The Bernt Committee's Official Norwegian Report NOU 1993:24 Lov om universiteter og høyskoler – Lov og rett i Norges-nett ['the Universities and University Colleges Act – Law and Rights in the Higher Education Network (Norgesnett)], from Section 9.1.4.

<sup>3</sup> Report from a working group appointed by Universities Norway in 2007: «Vekt på kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid» ['Emphasis on artistic research'], commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research dated 4 January 2018 «Ny doktorgrad – ph.d. i kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid» ['New doctoral degree – PhD in artistic research'].

<sup>5</sup> The Universities and University Colleges Act Section 1-1 b: 'conduct research and academic and artistic development work at a high international level'

<sup>6</sup> The Universities and University Colleges Act Section 1-1 c: 'disseminate knowledge of the institution's activities and promote an understanding of the principle of academic freedom and application of scholarly and artistic methods and results in the teaching of students, in the institution's own activities as well as in public administration, in cultural life and in business and industry,' and Section 3-9. Honorary doctor: 'Universities and university colleges that are authorised to award doctoral degrees may award the degree of honorary doctor (doctor honoris causa) in the subject area of the doctoral degree for important scholarly or artistic contributions, or outstanding work for the benefit of science or art.'

- In addition to ethical laws and guidelines, legislation relating to e.g. privacy and copyright may also be relevant to artistic research.  
This is discussed in sections 7 and 8.

### 3 Freedom and responsibility in artistic research

The Universities and University Colleges Act (UUC Act) Section 2-2 addresses academic freedom and responsibility including:

- Academic staff – freedom and responsibility
- Universities and university colleges – freedom and responsibility
- Recognised artistic and ethical principles. These principles are discussed in more detail below.

#### 3.1 Academic staff – freedom and responsibility

According to the UUC Act Section 2-2, academic staff have freedom and responsibility in relation to artistic research:

- The freedom to choose the topic and method of artistic research
- Responsibility for disseminating artistic research
- Responsibility for the transparency and publication or presentation of artistic research

Topic and method:

According to the UUC Act, academic staff have the right to choose the topic and method of artistic research. This freedom may only be limited by terms set out in the employment contract or a separate agreement.

Dissemination:

According to the UUC Act, academic staff have the 'right to and responsibility for dissemination'. This involves a requirement to publicly present/display the results of the artistic research, and may also include explicit reflection. 'Right to' means that the institution cannot prevent academic staff from disseminating the results of their artistic research.

Transparency and publication:

According to the UUC Act, academic staff are 'entitled to publish their results and must make sure such publication takes place'. In addition, 'the relevant research basis must be made available in line with good practice in the field.' These requirements are part of the broader concept of 'open research'.

Notes<sup>7</sup> from a working group under UHR-KDA addressed the understanding of open research in artistic research, including the concept of 'open research data'. The working group notes some material arising from artistic research may be difficult to share due to, among other things, copyright, while other material can be shared openly. Please refer to the note for a more detailed description of open research in artistic research.

#### 3.2 Universities and university colleges – freedom and responsibility

The Universities and University Colleges Act (UUC Act) addresses academic freedom and responsibility, stating that universities and university colleges must promote and protect 'academic freedom' and those exercising it. It follows from the UUC Act Section 2-2<sup>8</sup>:

'Universities and university colleges shall promote and safeguard academic freedom and those who exercise it. The institutions shall ensure that teaching and scientific and artistic research and experimental development maintain a high academic standard and are carried out in accordance with recognised scholarly, artistic, educational and ethical principles.'

This means that institutions must promote and safeguard the freedom of artistic research and ensure that artistic research is conducted in accordance with **recognised artistic and ethical principles**. It also means that institutions must ensure academic staff receive training in ethical principles, including ethical principles in artistic research.

<sup>7</sup> «Kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid og åpen forskning – Notat» ['Artistic Research and Open Research – Note'], UHR Art, Design and Architecture, 9 November 2022.

<sup>8</sup>The Universities and University Colleges Act Section 2-2 academic freedom and responsibility.

Note: In the UUC Act, the term 'academic' includes both scholarly and artistic activities.

### 3.3 Recognised artistic principles

Art relies on freedom in order to offer critical perspectives on prevailing social norms. Art needs freedom to test ethical and normative boundaries and to open space for debate and conversation. Art must be able to create alternative narratives and histories, and develop materiality, form and expression that provide aesthetic experiences. Art must be able to problematise and illuminate what it means to exist in the world at any given time.

Key artistic principles include:

- safeguarding art's free and critical position in society
- protecting freedom of expression in society
- facilitating experimental approaches to artistic practice
- developing new experiences and insights through art

The freedom of academic staff and institutions presupposes that artistic research is conducted in line with recognised artistic principles. Recognised artistic principles means those recognised by peers as valid principles for the performing and creative arts at any given time. Peers recognise that artistic freedom and freedom of expression are fundamental conditions for art to fulfil its function.

The Norwegian Governmental Commission on Freedom of Expression (1996–1999)<sup>9</sup> expresses a similar sentiment: Artistic expression cannot be exempt from society's regulations. There are, however, strong reasons why art should retain the relatively free position that it has. The fictional world of art can serve both openness and truth. Above all, however, it serves – by appealing to our imagination, our ability to see connections and shape visions – new ways of understanding that can, among other things, support our engagement in the development of society. Society's uncertainty about the political and moral content of art can in fact be seen as proof of art's reality-creating potential.

### 3.4 Recognised ethical principles

The freedom of academic staff and institutions also presupposes that artistic research is conducted in line with recognised ethical principles. Recognised ethical principles are expressed in the Ethical Guidelines for the Public Service<sup>10</sup>, which is based on fundamental ethical principles:

'The guidelines are founded on universally applicable ethical values and norms, such as fairness, loyalty, honesty, trustworthiness, truthfulness, and the principle of treating others as one would want to be treated by them.'

These ethical values and norms also apply to academic staff at universities and university colleges, whether employed based on their scholarly or artistic expertise. These ethical values and norms must be balanced against the academic and artistic freedom of academic staff.

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<sup>9</sup> NOU 1999:27 «Ytringsfrihet bør finde Sted» ['There shall be freedom of expression'] p. 35.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/dokumenter/etiske-retningslinjer-for-statstjenesten/id88164/?ch=2>

## 4 Ethical principles in artistic research

Artistic research is a sensory and experience-based mode of knowledge production that emerges through a network of relationships between different actors and materials.

Ethical principles in artistic research can be understood as principles related to recognised ethical norms in society at large, and which help safeguard the freedom of academic staff and institutions conducting artistic research. Core ethical principles in artistic research include respect, integrity and responsibility.

Ethics in artistic research is a relational practice that must be assessed in relation to a given context. Ongoing conversations, in which examples are raised and discussed, are therefore encouraged. The academic community itself continuously contributes to discussing and developing understanding of what ethical principles for artistic research mean in practice.

The principles can be understood as follows:

**Respect** for those involved in artistic research. This includes:

- showing consideration for affected parties,
- being aware of the resources, opportunities for expression and limitations of different parties, and how this may affect their ability to contribute,
- showing consideration for surroundings, animals, the environment and society,
- ensuring that all participants have the capacity to give consent and provide free and informed consent,
- safeguarding children and vulnerable groups,
- considering the need for anonymity and confidentiality,
- recognising power dynamics and asymmetry in interpersonal interactions,
- being aware of personal perspectives when engaging with a diversity of cultural practices.

**Integrity** towards peers. This includes:

- being honest in professional collaborations,
- ensuring impartiality in academic assessments,
- showing respect in supervisory relationships,
- making the goals and methods of artistic research accessible to peers for critical discussion,
- acknowledging and highlighting direct and indirect academic sources and contributions to works and productions presented to the public,
- sharing methods, processes and results in an honest manner.

**Responsibility** in planning and conducting artistic research. This includes:

- identifying relevant ethical issues in relation to conducting artistic research,
- clarifying roles and responsibilities,
- being aware of ties (financial, social, personal and others),
- being conscious of whose or which perspectives are chosen – and which are excluded – in dissemination or during the process,
- being transparent and aware of one's own role and perspective in relation to the academic and cultural contexts of artistic research.



## 5 Examples of ethics in artistic research

### 5.1 Sharing that allows peers to partake in the working method and process

A hallmark of artistic research is that its processes and insights are subject to a fundamental exchange of perspectives, whether this takes place in the creative and performative work or through the publication/presentation of works and productions.

Sharing artistic research is important because it enables peers to take part in the methods and insights that the artistic research generates. The processes and methods lead to results that are shared, both among peers and in the art's encounter with the public.

When academic staff share artistic research, it must be presented with integrity.

### 5.2 Proper referencing

In artistic practice, references to other works of art are often implicit in the artistic expression itself. There are a number of practices that draw on previous artistic works – such as sampling, re-enactment, appropriation, ready-mades, object trouvé or retelling – that function as implicit references with transmittable value.

Proper referencing ensures that other peers and contributors are acknowledged for their contribution to the artistic research. This makes it clear that artistic research is part of an academic context to which it also contributes.

In artistic research, academic staff should reflect on sources of inspiration and blind spots. In explicit reflection, references must not be implicit – they should be made explicit. This eliminates doubt as to whether a peer is referenced. When sharing the results of artistic research, academic staff must explicitly contextualise the artistic research in a field using proper referencing to, for example, other works, performances and textual and multimedia works. The references may span the entire spectrum of performative, audiovisual, material, textual and literary sources.

In explicit reflection on methods, means and results, all references and citations must be correct. For legal requirements regarding the use of others' intellectual property, see [Section 8 on the Copyright Act](#).

### 5.3 Falsification, fabrication and plagiarism

Artistic practice allows space for fiction. It allows drawing on the artistic expressions of others, and it is important to allow any references or allusions to other artistic expressions to remain implicit in the artwork itself. These can be implicit references with transmittable value, as long as it does not involve direct and verifiable copying.

In artistic research, any descriptions or references to working methods or results must not be fabricated or based on false sources, fictitious data or misleading descriptions.

The following are incompatible with good practice in artistic research:

- stealing someone else's work and presenting it as one's own (plagiarism),
- presenting a student's idea as the supervisor's idea,
- fabricating or falsifying methods or results,
- distorting or omitting aspects related to the description of the artistic research.

#### 5.4 Roles and consent in artistic research

Participants in an artistic research project may have many different roles that require different assessments regarding consent. As a general rule, academic staff must obtain free, informed consent from participants in artistic research:

- ‘Free’ means that consent is given without direct or indirect coercion, pressure or similar, and that consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- ‘Informed’ means that the person giving consent is not unaware of the purpose, methods, expected results and planned dissemination of the artistic research.

Consent must be obtained from project participants and informants, but the academic staff member must also assess whether it is necessary to obtain consent from the audience and any third parties who may contribute to, influence or be influenced by the artistic research.

Particular attention must be paid to situations involving children, young people and vulnerable groups in artistic research, or where asymmetry of roles may be invisible.

The matters described above are ethical considerations that are relevant when individuals are involved in artistic research.

See [Section 7 on the Personal Data Act](#) regarding legal requirements for processing personal data.

## 6 Research ethics legislation and guidelines

Artistic research may be based on hybrid approaches that incorporate both artistic and scholarly methods. It may also involve interdisciplinary collaboration with other research disciplines, such as natural science and technology, medicine and health science, social sciences and humanities. In such cases, legislation and guidelines relating to research ethics apply.

Below is a brief overview of the framework for research ethics.

### 6.1 The Research Ethics Act

The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research has laid down specific requirements for the organisation of research ethics in the Act relating to the Organisation of Research Ethics (the Research Ethics Act<sup>11</sup>). Artistic research is not explicitly mentioned in this Act. However, the act sets out the following requirements:

- Researchers must ensure that the research is conducted in accordance with recognised research ethics norms (Section 4).
- Research institutions must ensure that research at the institution is conducted in accordance with recognised research ethics norms, provide necessary training for students, doctoral candidates and employees in recognised research ethics norms, and ensure that everyone conducting or participating in the research is familiar with recognised research ethics norms (Section 5).
- Research institutions are responsible for handling cases of possible breaches of recognised research ethics norms and must have an integrity committee (Section 6).

### 6.2 National research ethics guidelines

The national research ethics committees in Norway have drawn up general research ethics guidelines. The main principles of the national research ethics guidelines in Norway are:

- **Respect.** Individuals participating in research, as informants or otherwise, must be treated with respect.
- **Good consequences.** Researchers must aim to ensure their activities have positive outcomes and that any potential adverse consequences are acceptable.
- **Fairness.** All research projects must be designed and implemented fairly.
- **Integrity.** Researchers are obligated to adhere to recognised norms and to act responsibly, transparently, and honestly towards colleagues and the public.

These principles form the basis for various national guidelines, including those for:

- Medicine and health sciences
- Natural science and technology (NENT)
- Social sciences and humanities (NESH)

### 6.3 European guidelines on research integrity

There are also European guidelines, e.g. ALLEA<sup>12</sup> The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>13</sup>, which is based on four principles:

- **Reliability** in ensuring the quality of research, reflected in the design, methodology, analysis, and use of resources.

<sup>11</sup> <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2017-04-28-23>

<sup>12</sup> ALLEA: All European Academies, European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities.

<sup>13</sup> See: [https://www.allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ALLEA-European-Code-of-Conduct-for-Research-Integrity-2019\\_Norwegian.pdf](https://www.allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/ALLEA-European-Code-of-Conduct-for-Research-Integrity-2019_Norwegian.pdf)

- **Honesty** in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting, and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full, and unbiased way.
- **Respect** for colleagues, research participants, research subjects, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage, and the environment.
- **Accountability** for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision, and mentoring, and for its wider societal impacts.

#### 6.4 When do research ethics guidelines apply to artistic research?

This guide is based on the premise that ‘research’ (in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities) and ‘artistic research’ are different but parallel forms of knowledge production. NESH states that the Guidelines for Research Ethics apply to research but not to other forms of knowledge production:

‘The guidelines apply to all research, whether publicly or privately initiated and directed. There may be grey areas between research and other forms of knowledge production, which may have different purposes, levels of independence, systems of quality control, and routines for publication. Therefore, researchers and research institutions should specify what constitutes their research and what constitutes knowledge production and communication. If analyses, reports, and evaluations are research based, they must comply with research ethics norms.’

This means that the Research Ethics Act, the national research ethics guidelines and e.g. NESH do not necessarily apply to artistic research, with the exceptions discussed below.

NESH states about its guidelines:

‘NESH’s guidelines have been developed for research in the social sciences and the humanities in a broad sense, which includes fields such as law, theology, educational science, psychology, and community medicine.’

NESH also states that:

‘[The guidelines] *may* be employed in work with artistic development and museum practice, and they *may* also be of relevance to other disciplines and interdisciplinary collaborations.’ (our italics).

Cases in which the Research Ethics Act, the general national research ethics guidelines, such as NESH, NENT, etc. are relevant to artistic research are:

- When artistic research is based on recognised scholarly methods from the humanities and social sciences (such as interviews, statistical analysis, surveys, archival studies, ethnography, participant observation, fieldwork, use of informants, etc.), medicine and health sciences, technology and natural sciences (such as technical or scientific experiments, animal experiments, medical trials, etc.),
- When artistic research presents results in recognised scholarly forms such as dissertations, articles, monographs, software, etc.,
- When staff participate in interdisciplinary collaborative projects with researchers in scholarly fields.

Universities and university colleges must provide the appropriate training in recognised research ethics norms for students, doctoral candidates and staff, and the training must include the areas of artistic research mentioned above. The institutions' integrity committees may also address potential breaches of recognised research ethical norms in these contexts.

Refer to [Section 10 Glossary - clarification of terms](#), for an overview of terms that may help interpret national research ethics guidelines, including NESH and NENT, in ways that are meaningful for artistic research.

Please note that although the Research Ethics Act, the national research ethics guidelines, such as NESH, do not necessarily apply to artistic research, artistic research is still subject to ethical requirements in accordance with the UUC Act Section 2-2 on academic freedom and responsibility. Refer to [Section 3 Freedom and responsibility in artistic research](#).

## 7 The Personal Data Act

As mentioned above, academic staff must make ethical judgements, show consideration and obtain consent when involving individuals in artistic research projects.

In addition to these ethical requirements, there are also legal obligations for processing personal data, regulated by the Act relating to the processing of personal data (the Personal Data Act).

From a legal perspective, data protection in artistic research concerns the collection, processing and storing of personal data. Artistic research must be conducted in accordance with fundamental data protection considerations, such as personal integrity, the right to privacy and the responsible processing of personal data in accordance with the requirements of the Personal Data Act.

Academic staff must conduct a preliminary assessment based on the legal requirements for processing personal data. This assessment must be completed before data collection commences. Personal data must be securely stored and not retained longer than is necessary to fulfil the purpose of the processing. The responsible member of staff (project leader) is responsible for ensuring compliance.

To support this requirement, all universities and university colleges have a Data Protection Officer. Many institutions also have an agreement with the Norwegian Agency for Shared Services in Education and Research, Sikt, for data protection services. Such agreements provide access to a platform and a message archive that can help researchers identify potential data protection issues relating to an artistic research project. Registering information in the Sikt platform ensures that artistic research is conducted in accordance with the Personal Data Act.

Sikt's data protection services can be found [here](#).

## 8 The Copyright Act

As mentioned above, staff must make ethical judgments when using the work of peers and contributors, and ensure they are acknowledged for their contribution to artistic research through proper referencing practices.

In addition to these ethical requirements, there is also a legal requirement for academic staff who use the intellectual property of others in artistic research. The legal requirement is regulated in the Act relating to Copyright in Literary, Scientific and Artistic Works (the Copyright Act).

The purpose of the Copyright Act is (Section 1) to:

- a) grant rights to those who create, perform or invest in creative works or related performances and productions, thereby also incentivising cultural production,
- b) limit these rights in order to maintain a fair balance between the interests of rights holders on the one hand and the interests of users and the public on the other, allowing the use of creative works and related performances and productions to be used where justified by societal considerations, such as private use and in the interests of freedom of information and expression,
- c) facilitate agreements on the use of works and related performances and productions.

Academic staff who use the intellectual property of others' in their artistic research must assess whether its use complies with the Copyright Act. This includes being attentive when using and referring to other copyright holders' intellectual property in regard to:

- reproduction
- attribution
- derogatory use of other's intellectual property.

## 9 Summary

**Universities and university colleges** shall promote and safeguard academic freedom in artistic research and those conducting artistic research. Institutions must also facilitate:

- high standards in artistic research,
- artistic research being conducted in accordance with the principles of the free and critical role of art in society and the principles of freedom of expression,
- artistic research being conducted in accordance with ethical principles, such as fairness, loyalty, honesty, reliability, truthfulness – and the principle of treating others as one would like to be treated,
- training in ethical principles in artistic research,
- training in research ethics guidelines that may be relevant to artistic research.

**Academic staff have:**

- the freedom to choose the topic and method of artistic research,
- responsibility for disseminating the results of artistic research,
- responsibility for ensuring transparency and publication/presentation of artistic research.

**Academic staff have ethical responsibilities** relating to:

- following ethical principles in artistic research:
  - respect for those involved in artistic research,
  - integrity towards peers,
  - responsibility in planning and conducting artistic research,
- following National research ethics guidelines:
  - when artistic research is based on recognised scholarly methods from the humanities, social sciences, medicine and health sciences, technology and natural sciences, etc.,
  - when artistic research presents results in recognised scholarly forms,
  - when academic staff with artistic expertise are involved in interdisciplinary collaborations with researchers in scholarly fields.

Ethical perspectives can help raise awareness and encourage reflection on how artistic research is planned, conducted and disseminated. These processes require many considerations to be seen in context and balanced,

This guide aims to raise awareness of ethics in artistic research.

Responsibility for monitoring and further discussion lies with universities and university colleges – and with the academic staff conducting artistic research.

## 10 Appendices

### 10.1 Glossary - clarification of terms

When artistic research is based on recognised scholarly methods, for example from the humanities, social sciences (NESH), natural sciences and technology (NENT), medicine and health sciences or other fields, the National Guidelines for Research Ethics mentioned in Section 6.2 apply.

These guidelines also apply when artistic research presents results in recognised scholarly forms, or when academic staff with artistic expertise are involved in interdisciplinary collaborative projects with researchers in scholarly fields, or in other relevant contexts.

This glossary is intended as an aid for academic staff who conduct artistic research when reading the national research ethics guidelines relating to various scholarly research fields.

| Terms in research ethics guidelines (NESH, NENT etc.). | Explanation and detailed description for use in artistic research                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Publication / presentation                             | In research (in the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities), publication is used to ensure results are made available to peers. In artistic research, publication or presentation occurs in many formats, media and materials, aimed at both a public audience as well as one's own field and peers. For example: in theatres, galleries, museums, public and/or private spaces, online, in textual formats and in cinemas.                                                                                                                          |
| Duplication                                            | Duplication refers to the same research being published in multiple places without proper referencing. In artistic research, an equivalent might be the 'premiere' of a performance followed by subsequent presentations of the performance. When the artistic results are repeated in a new context, good practice involves informing peers that the result has previously been published or presented. The goal is to ensure transparency.                                                                                                                           |
| Distortion and concealment                             | In artistic practice, distortion and concealment may be used as deliberate artistic devices. When presenting artistic research, however, it is good practice to be transparent and honest, to allow others to understand the working methods or insights generated by the research. In this context, distortion and concealment are not acceptable.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Dissertation                                           | A dissertation is a scholarly work related to a doctoral degree.<br>The term dissertation is not used in artistic research. The parallel to 'dissertation' is 'the artistic doctoral result' that is submitted for assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Values and motives for action                          | Artistic practice allows room for fiction, including in relation to individuals and their actions. When sharing artistic research with peers, the interpretation of others' motives can play a central and legitimate role, and this must be managed respectfully in order to safeguard the freedom of artistic research. Academic staff also have a special responsibility to understand their own role in a broader perspective, with regard to class, economics, education, social and cultural factors, and reflect on their own power to define different groups. |



## 10.2 Essential documents

### Universities Norway (UHR)

- «Vekt på kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid» [‘Emphasis on artistic research’]. The Jørgensen Committee (2007),
- Research and Development in the Arts, 1995–2015: Twenty years of artistic research (2015),
- Guidelines for PhDs in artistic research (2018),
- Guidelines for the assessment of Norwegian doctoral degrees (2022),

### Legislation and regulations

- The Act relating to Universities and University Colleges
- The Act relating to the Organisation of Research Ethics Work
- The Act relating to the Processing of Personal Data (Personal Data Act)
- Act relating to Copyright in Literary, Scientific and Artistic Works (the Copyright Act).

### Guidelines

#### Norway:

- The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees, general guidelines for research ethics,
- Guidelines for Research Ethics in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NESH)

#### Europe:

- All European Academies, ALLEA: Research integrity and good research practice

