

**The Performing Arts Research Centre
Theatre Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki**

MISSION AND VISION 2017 – 2020

TUTKE'S MISSION

Tutke as part of the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki

The Performing Arts Research Centre (Tutke) is responsible for doctoral education and research at the Theatre Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. Tutke implements the mission of the Theatre Academy, which is to educate artists and artist-researchers in the performing arts as well as to conduct artistic research. Performing arts refer to the fields represented in the Theatre Academy. Tutke is an academic community consisting of doctoral students, teachers, researchers and administrative staff.

Artistic research conducted in Tutke

Doctoral studies and research conducted in Tutke are defined as artistic research. Artistic research is *academic, multidisciplinary and collective research realised in the medium of art.*

Research taking place in the *medium* of art means that the practices, techniques, methods, as well as the institutional arrangements that define the practice, reception, education and implementation of art, constitute (in various ways) the focus of research activities: as tools, materials, or objectives. The knowledge generated by artistic research aims at changes in art: it generates new kind of art, novel means for art-making and implementing artistic practices, and new understanding on the significance. Further, it affects the manner we perceive and experience ourselves, one another, and the universe.

The *academic nature* of artistic research means that research generates knowledge that is based on experience, is justifiable and that can be assessed with academic criteria. Such experience is practical experience, *praxis*, that is obtained by the artist at work or in profession, or artistic sensory experience, *aisthesis*, that is presented for the practitioner and/or the recipient by the unfolding art. The criteria with which the results of research are justified and evaluated relate to the

method, consistency, communicability, critical observation, individuality, ethical nature and freedom of the research, and its relationship with existing research, with art and with society.

The *multidisciplinary nature* of research means that it does not commit itself to a single doctrine, discipline, methodology, or ideology. This is necessarily so, since artistic research relies on artistic experience that does not lend itself to be explored by one particular doctrine or method only. It is for artistic research to define which doctrines and disciplines it enters into discussion with, which methods it chooses to apply, and which motives it defends. This definition is an integral element in artistic research. Artistic research is not only multidisciplinary but also interartistic, just like artistic experiences themselves, and true to its nature, it can be translated from one medium into another or interpreted simultaneously or separately in different media.

The *collective nature* of artistic research flows from the basic nature of the arts: the will and the ability of people to sense, experience and act together. It is only from the position of the person who experiences art that artistic experience can be verified and such a position is always something collective and shared. Just as the performance in performing arts has its public, artistic research must have its own research community, a collegial peer group and a potential public. Its participation and feedback is an important prerequisite for the practical realisation of research. Communality is vital also for the fundamentally multidisciplinary and interartistic nature of research. The evaluation of research is the responsibility of the national and international academic community of artistic research, in which Tutke, Theatre Academy and the University of the Arts Helsinki belong.

In accordance with these criteria that connect artistic and academic activities as equals, Tutke generates high-quality doctoral degrees and artistic research in the field of performing arts. It thus promotes artistic research and the development of performing arts, as well as enhances the social contribution of the arts in challenging and creating interpretations of the prevailing realities in our society.

Tutke as a research community

Contributing to the above mentioned criteria, Tutke seeks to create and secure a framework for conducting and developing artistic research. It provides doctoral students and researchers with a support network that promotes their research work and careers in various ways. It creates conditions for the observation, comparison and interaction between different media. It forms an international

artistic and academic community of expertise enabling critical evaluation and unprejudiced development of artistic research. It is a discussion platform where different fields, methodologies and current academic trends encounter the challenges and problems surfacing within the performing arts. Tutke is a collegial community of actors and researchers. Its values and principles include transparency, democracy, equality, pedagogy, and respect and support of the work of others.

TUTKE'S VISION

Tutke is a unique international centre of artistic research and doctoral education

Tutke is founded in 2007. The combination of principles, values and activities discussed above has been developed along with Tutke's activities. This combination that directs Tutke's optimally functioning doctoral education is unique, internationally acknowledged and valued. It is therefore important to promote, develop and defend it when necessary. Tutke takes part in words and in action in the ongoing redefinition of the arts, artistry, and art education with respect to the ecological, social and humanitarian challenges we face in society today. Considering the current academic climate and the prevailing state of the world, Tutke recognises the following practical challenges to be faced in the coming years:

Challenges to Tutke's activities

- Securing artistic post-doc research, integrating it into doctoral training, and inviting post-doc researchers to participate in research projects
- Promoting international visits and interaction of artistic researchers
- Developing artistic research to a level where the perceptions and results generated by it start to critically challenge different disciplines, including natural sciences
- Promoting the awareness in society on artistic research activities

With its activities, Tutke aims at achieving its objectives in selecting doctoral students, staff and visiting researchers, developing the teaching programme, supervising doctoral research, preparing research projects, drawing up publication policies, communication, and international cooperation. The measures are documented in more detail in the action programme of the Theatre Academy, which corresponds to the strategy of the University of the Arts Helsinki.