

Application - Reclaiming art! Creative expression as a building block in our social foundations

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Disciplinary Field: Artistic Research

Format: Slide presentation with interactive component

Title: Artist as Conflict Mediator: Embodied Strategies for Social Transformation

Abstract:

This presentation explores how dance and performance artists develop embodied strategies to engage with conflict and social transformation, situating artistic practice as a form of civic engagement and epistemological inquiry. Drawing on my research *Artist as Conflict Mediator: Engaging, Embodying, Transforming* (University of Amsterdam, 2025), I identify and analyze strategies that highlight how artists materialize conflict narratives and foster collective processes of reflection and transformation. These strategies—ranging from the cultivation of embodied mindsets and the articulation of conflict narratives to the fostering of intercultural relations and reimagined non-verbal vocabularies—demonstrate how artistic methodologies operate beyond conventional conflict resolution frameworks that privilege outcomes.

The presentation connects these findings with my practice-based project, *Non-Verbal Scores: Reimagining Gestural Vocabularies for Mediators*, which reinterprets mediators' gestures to enhance communication and empathy in negotiation contexts. Through an interactive presentation format, I demonstrate how artistic research can cultivate embodied forms of knowing that contribute to conflict studies and the development of new interdisciplinary methodologies for conflict engagement. The work argues for reclaiming art's role as a transformative social process, emphasizing how aesthetic and embodied dimensions shape conflict perception and become a site of knowledge and an instrument for reconfiguring relations within conflict and reconciliation frameworks.

Keywords: embodied knowledge, conflict transformation, materializing conflict, artistic research

Curriculum Vitae

I am an artist with a strong pursuit in academic and artistic research trajectories, working across psychology, dance, performance art, and socially engaged practices. My

artistic and research methodology investigates the ways in which embodied knowledge forms strategies to engage with conflict and functions as tools for social cohesion, conflict transformation, and civic imagination. My academic foundation spans the fields of psychology, where I gained solid training in qualitative and social science research methods; artistic research, which strengthened the interdisciplinary outlook and provided theoretical grounding of practice-based research; and art education, where I trained in pedagogy as an integral part of social practice.