

The Work Group Principle

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One of SARN's central tasks is the support and representation of the community of actors working in the field of artistic research. Though easy enough to formulate as a general guideline, putting this goal into action automatically requires a number of fundamental organizational provisions: the interaction between the different groups involved – especially the board, association members and the 'scene' – is regulated in just the same way that resulting decisions on content priorities and political attitudes are made.

During the course of SARN's transition to a self-organized association structure in November of 2015, extensive discussions were led about questions of how and where SARN should advocate for exactly which contents, as well as how the cooperation with the extended community should take place.

The decision to coordinate SARN's activities via self-constituted work groups was mainly the result of the wish to enable a self-constituted, community-based organization of interests – rather than from the top down. In representing artistic research and researchers, it was agreed, the concerns

of the actors involved should be received and depicted as directly as possible. In keeping with the critical discussion in political philosophy over the past two decades on the concept of representation (Isabell Lorey among others), the aim was not to make SARN a spokesperson for a community, but to create conditions by which the community could make itself heard.

The work group principle has met with great interest from the very beginning. Today, the number of amalgams of research interests, initially proposed mainly from within the smaller circle of the board, but continuously extending to include other members, has doubled. This welcome confirmation of the concept's success is nonetheless accompanied by new challenges: how can we make the content-related exchange with these independently, self-organized units productive in such a way that their activities can also be made accessible to interested parties beyond the narrow circle of participants? How should the funds available be divided fairly and on a needs-oriented basis among the groups, given their enormously varied modes of operation? And simply: how many and which groups should, and can there be?

These questions were discussed in depth last year and were taken as an opportunity to reflect on and, if necessary, to adapt SARN's tasks and ways of functioning. The work group principle was confirmed in all these discussions as a suitable means of cultivating a multifaceted understanding of artistic research, the evidence of which we see in the heterogeneity of the current groups: in addition to thematically-focused work groups (Art and Industry, Dalvazza Group, Listening / Sounding / Thinking, Performance Research Group, Sense of Coexistence), there are also those dedicated to the specific procedures and strategies of artistic research (Methods & Practices). Some deal with research policy concerns (Pièce de Resistance) and still others work on fostering forums and modalities of communication with the community (SARN Table, News Library).

Sometimes individual topics become larger focal points, to which SARN then devotes itself more intensively – in 2023, the PhD discussion was in the foreground. This matter will continue to determine a significant part of the agenda. In 2024, we would also like to promote exchange among the work groups through events. We will begin with

this year's General Assembly, where the various groups will introduce themselves.

The work group principle, we are pleased to note, has created fertile ground on which the community can settle and continue to develop.

Rachel Mader, Markus Schwander
(Co-Presidents)

Financial Report 2023

BALANCE SHEET	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2020
ACTIVE	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	22 548.33	15 733.47	34 899.81	55 849.19
Accounts Receivable	11 711.37	6 750.00	6 750.00	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	490.25	0.00	362.35	362.35
TOTAL ACTIVES	34 749.95	22 483.47	42 012.16	56 211.54
PASSIVE	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
BORROWED CAPITAL				
Obligations	0.00	472.85	327.20	6 025.94
Passive Accruals	2 567.50	4 258.95	5 826.75	1 031.30
	2 567.50	4 731.80	6 153.95	7 057.24
ASSOCIATION CAPITAL				
Opening Balance	17 751.67	35 858.21	49 154.30	34 571.86
Capital Gains	14 430.78	-18 106.54	-13 296.09	14 582.44
	32 182.45	17 751.67	35 858.21	49 154.30
TOTAL PASSIVES	34 749.95	22 483.47	42 012.16	56 211.54

Financial Report 2023				
SARN Income Statement	2023 (1.1-31.12.2023)	2022 (1.1-31.12.2022)	2021 (1.1-31.12.2021)	2020 (1.1-31.12.2020)
REVENUE	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Conferences	491.00	2157.26	1070.00	0.00
Contributions	36 623.00	40 123.00	40 123.00	40 123.00
Other Income	202.85	10.85	4.10	5.40
	37 316.85	42 291.11	41 197.10	40 128.40
EXPENSES	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Work Group Activities	1517.74	3777.35	4525.94	4295.00
Conferences	500.00	29165.21	10 544.88	0.00
Further Activities	2058.60	820.66	234.75	0.00
Personnel Costs	16 097.40	18 796.38	28 457.00	14 217.50
Office / Print Material	0.00	50.00	110.05	272.36
Bookkeeping	1176.55	1835.55	1005.80	1046.20
Infrastructure	664.35	346.45	381.99	0.00
Maintenance	603.10	840.00	3000.00	2250.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	422.58	614.90
Annual Report	220.00	4438.39	5648.20	2790.00
Account Management	48.33	327.66	162.00	60.00
	22 886.07	60 397.65	54 493.19	25 545.96
NET INCOME	14 430.78	-18 106.54	-13 296.09	14 582.44

Association

Founded	2011
Members	327
Co-Presidents	Rachel Mader and Markus Schwander
Board	Flavia Caviezel, Ronny Hardliz, Michael Hiltbrunner, Luzia Hürzeler, Petra Köhle, Franziska Lauber, Siri Peyer, Barbara Preisig, Fabiana Senkpiel, Laura von Niederhäusern, Frank Westermeyer
Coordinator	Erin Mallon
Auditor	Evelyne Monney

About

The Swiss Artistic Research Network SARN represents artists and researchers from the Swiss Universities of the Arts as well as independent artists and researchers engaged in artistic research. It promotes the significance of artistic research in the arts, other fields of academia and wider societal contexts in Switzerland and internationally.

SARN seeks to enrich conditions and contexts for artistic researchers in Switzerland through open exchange, work group activities, publications, workshops and symposia. SARN facilitates debate and dialogue about issues concerning artistic research between artistic research communities, institutions of higher education, foundations and public and private competence centers. SARN was established 2011 by the Swiss Universities of Art and Design Conference (KHKD/CHAD).

SARN is supported by the following institutions:

n|w Fachhochschule
Nordwestschweiz

HKB
Hochschule der Künste Bern
Haute école des arts de Berne
Bern Academy of the Arts

Lucerne University of
Applied Sciences and Arts
**HOCHSCHULE
LUZERN**

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— Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
— Zurich University of the Arts
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— **HEAD**
Genève

Colophon

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