

Keynote Proposal for NAFAE

What is it possible to know?

In 2005 Dr Stuart Hannabuss responded to a keynote presentation by Suzanne Lacy, the artist and activist, by applauding the willingness of artists to dare to raise questions for which there are no known or available methodologies. In making this observation, Stuart was highlighting an important quality of approach in artistic research that contrasted with his own discipline in the social sciences. In artistic research, outcomes cannot be pre-determined. They emerge through the experience of making work. The research begins with the perspective and subjectivity of an individual acting in the world, positioning this action in relation to existing theories, histories of ideas and of artistic practices.

This lecture tells the story of an approach to artistic research through an established programme, *On the Edge Research* concerned with the role of the arts in public life. It offers one of many possible approaches to artistic research. The unfolding narrative developed over 20 years raises a number of important questions, including, "What can be known through art?" "What is the relevance of an artistic way of knowing, beyond art?"

(179 words)

Biography

Anne Douglas is a research professor at Grays School of Art and cofounder director of On the Edge research (www.ontheedgeresearch.org). This programme explores the relationship of art to public life through predominantly practice led research at doctoral and post-doctoral levels. Douglas has published on research through arts practice – notably *The Artistic Turn* with Kathleen Coessens and Darla Crispin, University of Leuven Press 2009; "Context is half the work": developing doctoral research through arts practice in culture in Cartiere, C. and Zebracki, M. in *The Everyday Practice of Public Art: Art, Space and Social Inclusion*, London: Routledge 2016 among other journal articles that explore improvisation, leadership in the arts and culture, and experiential knowledge. Douglas is an associate on the EU funded *Knowing from Inside*, led by Prof Tim Ingold, Aberdeen

University 2013-2018 and PI of the AHRC funded research *Cultural leadership and the place of the artist* (2015-16).
(148 words)