Practice as Research: Exploring the Intersection of Artistic Practice and Academic Inquiry



Practice as research is an innovative approach to scholarly inquiry that combines artistic practice with academic research. It recognizes the unique

knowledge and insights that can be generated through the creative process, and it challenges traditional notions of what constitutes valid research.



Practice as Research in the Arts: Principles, Protocols, Pedagogies, Resistances by Robin Nelson

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In this article, we will explore the key principles, methods, and benefits of practice as research in the arts. We will discuss how artists can use their creative work to generate new knowledge, and how researchers can use artistic practice to inform their research questions and methodologies.

Principles of Practice as Research

The principles of practice as research are based on the belief that artistic practice is a legitimate and valuable form of inquiry. Artists have a unique ability to explore complex ideas, emotions, and experiences through their work. They can use their creative process to generate new insights into the world around them, and to challenge existing assumptions.

Practice as research recognizes the importance of both the creative process and the finished product. It is not simply about creating art for its

own sake, but about using the creative process to generate new knowledge and understanding.

Methods of Practice as Research

There are many different ways to conduct practice as research. Some artists use their creative work to explore personal experiences or emotions. Others use it to comment on social or political issues. Still others use it to experiment with new materials and techniques.

No matter what the subject matter or approach, practice as research always involves a process of reflection and analysis. Artists need to be able to articulate the intentions behind their work, and to explain how their creative process has led them to new insights.

Some common methods of practice as research include:

* Studio work: This is the traditional method of practice as research, where artists work in their studios to create new work. * Fieldwork: This involves conducting research outside of the studio, in the real world. Artists may interview people, observe events, or collect data. * Collaboration: This involves working with other artists or researchers to create new work or to conduct research. * Performance: This involves creating and performing new work for an audience.

Benefits of Practice as Research

There are many benefits to conducting practice as research. Some of the benefits include:

* **New knowledge and insights:** Practice as research can generate new knowledge and insights into the world around us. Artists can use their creative work to explore complex ideas, emotions, and experiences in a way that is not possible through traditional research methods. *

Challenging assumptions: Practice as research can challenge existing assumptions about the world. Artists can use their work to question the status quo, and to offer new perspectives on important issues. *

Developing new skills and techniques: Practice as research can help artists to develop new skills and techniques. They can experiment with new materials and processes, and they can learn from other artists and researchers. * **Building community:** Practice as research can help to build community. Artists can work together to create new work, and they can share their ideas and experiences with each other.

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Practice as research has many benefits, including generating new knowledge and insights, challenging assumptions, developing new skills and techniques, and building community. It is an important approach to scholarship that can help us to better understand the world around us and to create a more just and equitable society.

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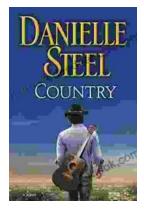
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