

# FORUM<sup>+</sup>

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: Conversation, participation and co-creation in the arts

Many art houses, policymakers and project developers are currently advocating concepts such as participation and co-creation. Through various forms of participation and dialogue, the aim is to actively involve various audiences in art, culture and policy. Participation and co-creation are different forms of cooperation in which all participants have an influence on the process and to a certain extent contribute to the end result. Cooperation can be defined as an exchange in which all participants benefit from the meeting. Through organised neighbourhood talks, conversation walks and citizens' budgets, citizens, civil society organisations, businesses or knowledge institutions can, for example, have a say in the development of a plan for the neighbourhood, such as a playground, a neighbourhood garden or the renovation of an old cinema. Through cooperation, greater involvement is sought and the chances of success would seem to be much higher.

In the domain of the arts too, conversation, participation and co-creation are buzz words. Cooperative exchanges exist in many forms and can be both informal and formal. According to sociologist Richard Sennett, cooperation requires 'social' or 'dialogical skills' such as listening well, acting tactfully, finding points of agreement and being able to deal with disagreement, but also avoiding frustration in a difficult discussion. It is no coincidence that Sennett's conception of cooperation is based on the performing arts. After all, rehearsals form the basis for making music, theatre or dance. When rehearsing music, for example, it is vital to be able to listen well, both musically and socially, and to enter into a dialogue with each other.

This new FORUM<sup>+</sup> dossier collects contributions on various forms of artistic collaboration and shared authorship, such as artists' collectives, theatre and dance companies and orchestras, as well as social collaborations between artists and citizens in so-called participatory art or social-artistic projects. The editors invite contributions on the following topics (not exhaustive):

How do artists work together, with each other, with citizens and with policymakers?

What skills does cooperation require from an artist and the participating partners? How are these requirements used and what is their impact on the shared result?

What implications do co-creation and participation have for our conceptions of authorship and artistic property?

To what extent does co-creation offer a method for research in the arts and how does it work?

What are the implications of cooperation models for the viewer (participant), the cultural field and the neighbourhood or city in which they take place?

Can artistic collaborations be a model for other social domains or sustainable creativity?

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The editorial team of FORUM<sup>+</sup> welcome proposals for articles (3000-5000 words) and visual contributions (3 spreads / 6 pages). Proposals can be submitted by email to [art&research@ap.be](mailto:art&research@ap.be). Contributions are subject to peer review. Copyright guidelines and a template for articles can be downloaded from [www.forum-online.be/publiceer-in-forum](http://www.forum-online.be/publiceer-in-forum).

The deadline for the next issue is 15 September 2019.