

an introduction to artistic and design research.

Academic Methodologies
MA Creative Technologies

recap: why do we need a methodology?

methodologies help us navigate between the individual observation and general rules; between the subjective and the objective; between instance and class

methodologies mediate between experience and knowledge

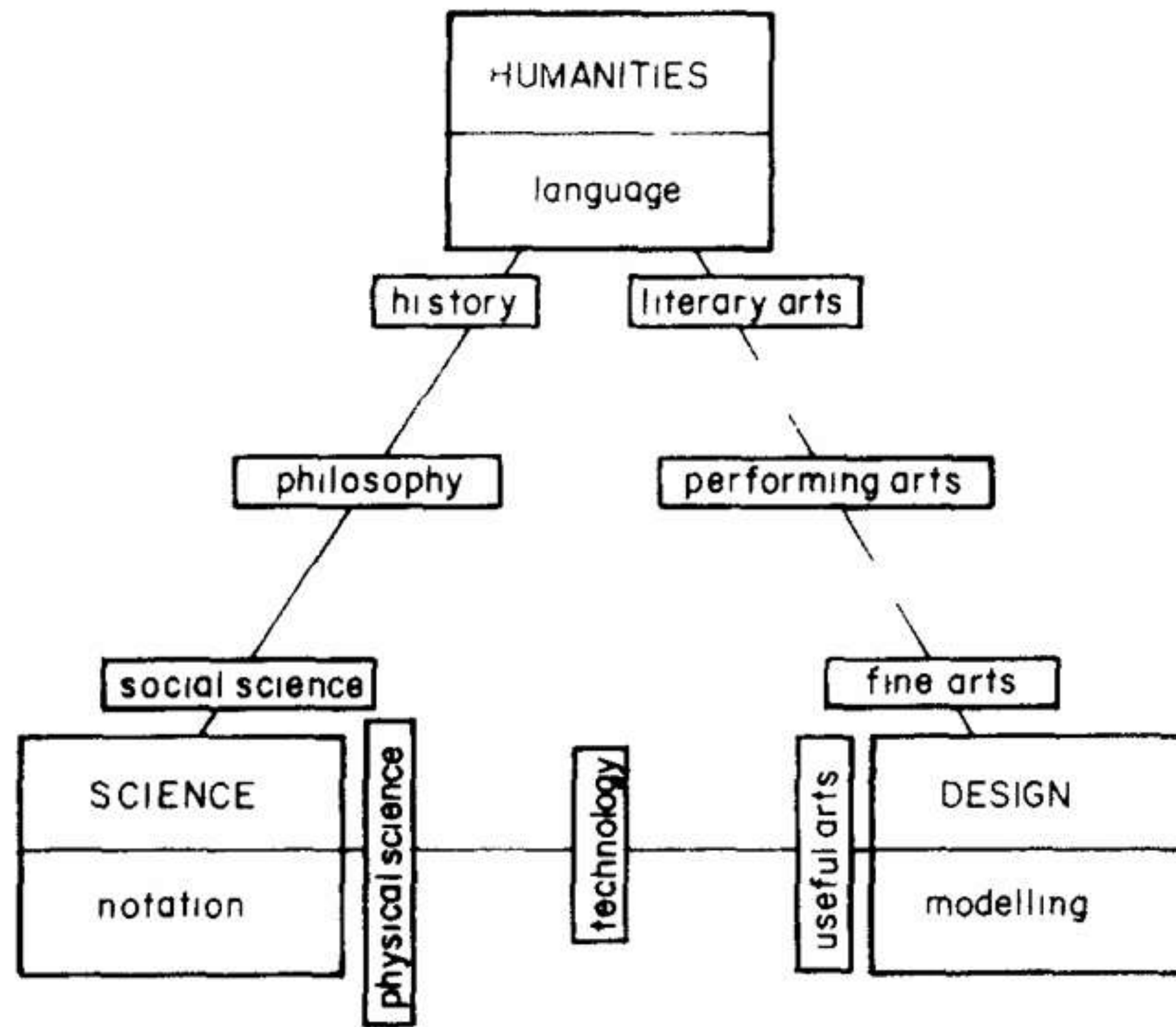
recap: research methods so far...

- quantitative (surveys, statistical modelling etc.)
- qualitative (textual analysis, discourse analysis, audience studies, archival research etc.)

terminology

- research by design
- design methodology
- design research ->
- artistic research -->

terminology



Archer, B. 1979. Design as a Discipline.

design research: examples



<https://cityscope.media.mit.edu/>

<https://youtu.be/o71Ab4cJ1uA?si=zhk0g8oEU4kZAyn8>

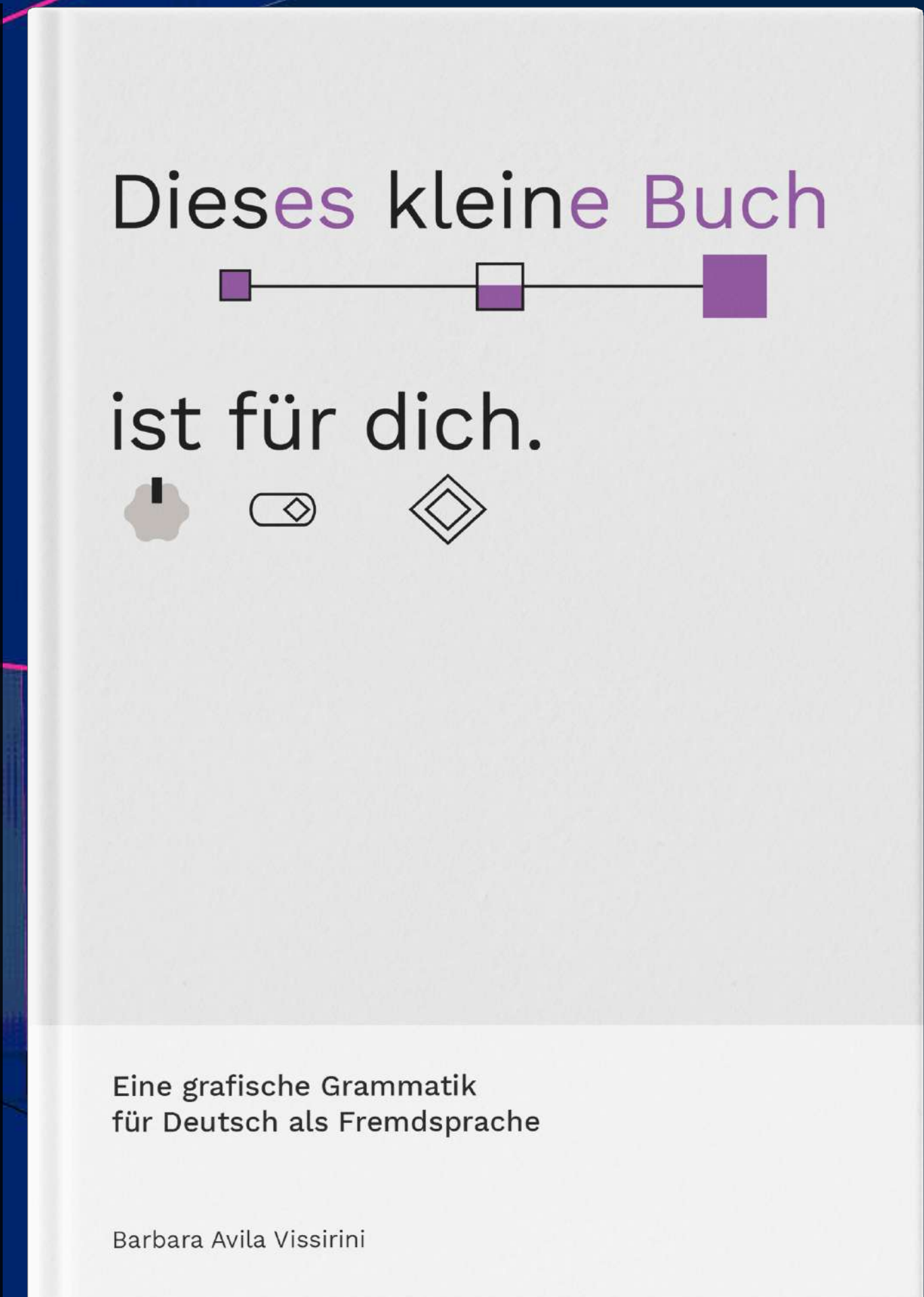
CityScope, MIT Media Lab City Science Group

- Collaborative design and consultancy platform
- Connects a large amount of urban mobility data with ML prediction models and a AR/Projection Mapping/3D-printed interface

design research: examples

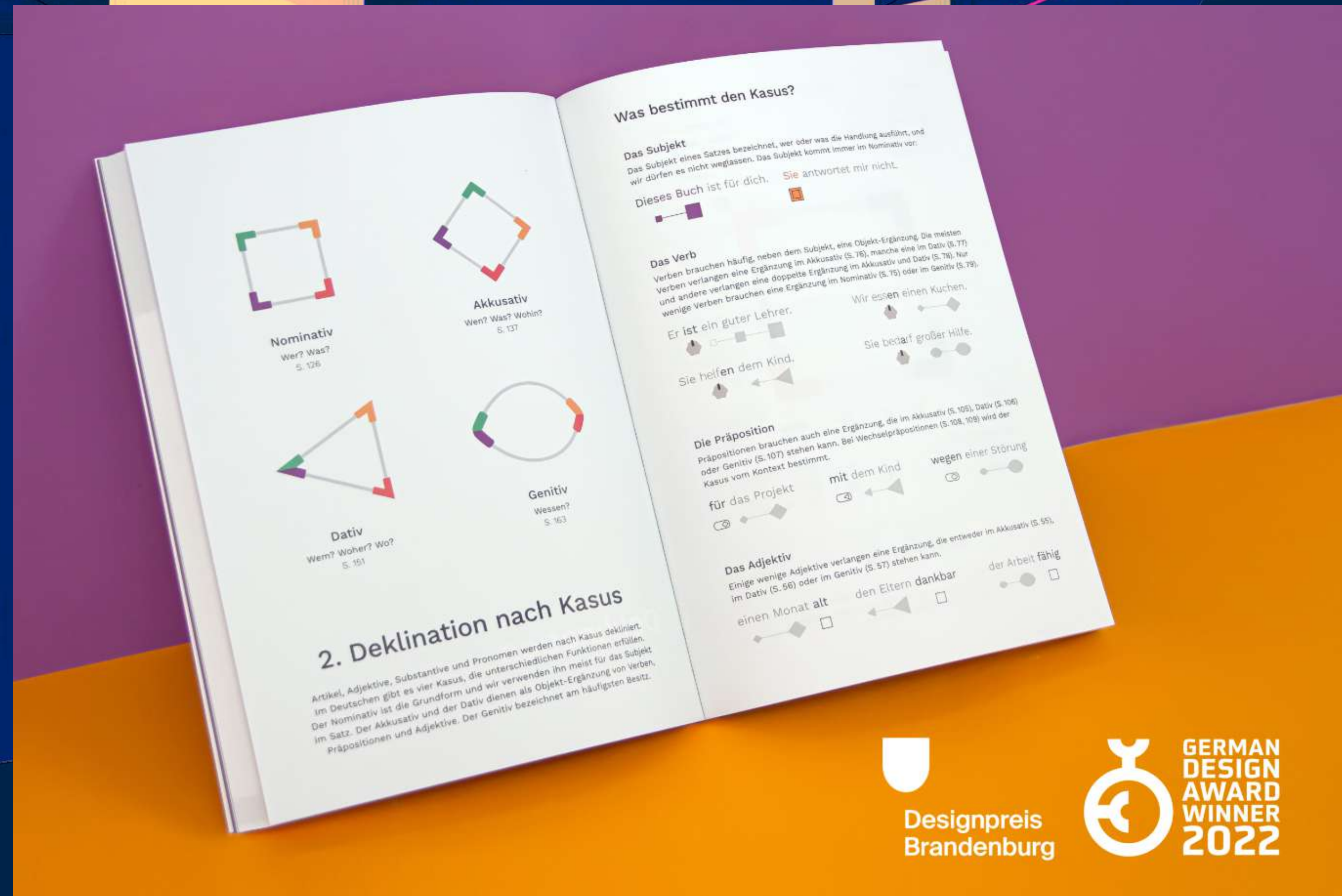
Visuals for Language, Urban Complexity Lab, FH Potsdam

- Research project investigating how visual techniques such as highlighting and encoding can be combined to explain grammar rules and structures for non-native speakers.
- Visual system for German grammar that combines text appearance and symbols to highlight and differentiate multiple grammar categories.
- Fosters structure recognition and comparison.
- Intended to be able to be used for different languages.



<https://www.dieseskleinebuch.de/>

design research: examples



design research: examples

<https://youtu.be/Y1HfrXbVshg?si=8-t5B7bAaz-CUHS6&t=224>

<https://fsbrg.net/sever/>



Project SEVER, Strelka Institute, Moscow

characteristics of design research

- Solution-oriented
- Design process becomes methodology (prototyping, testing, iterating etc.)
- Epistemics based on "modelling" (i.e. shaping, giving form to something)

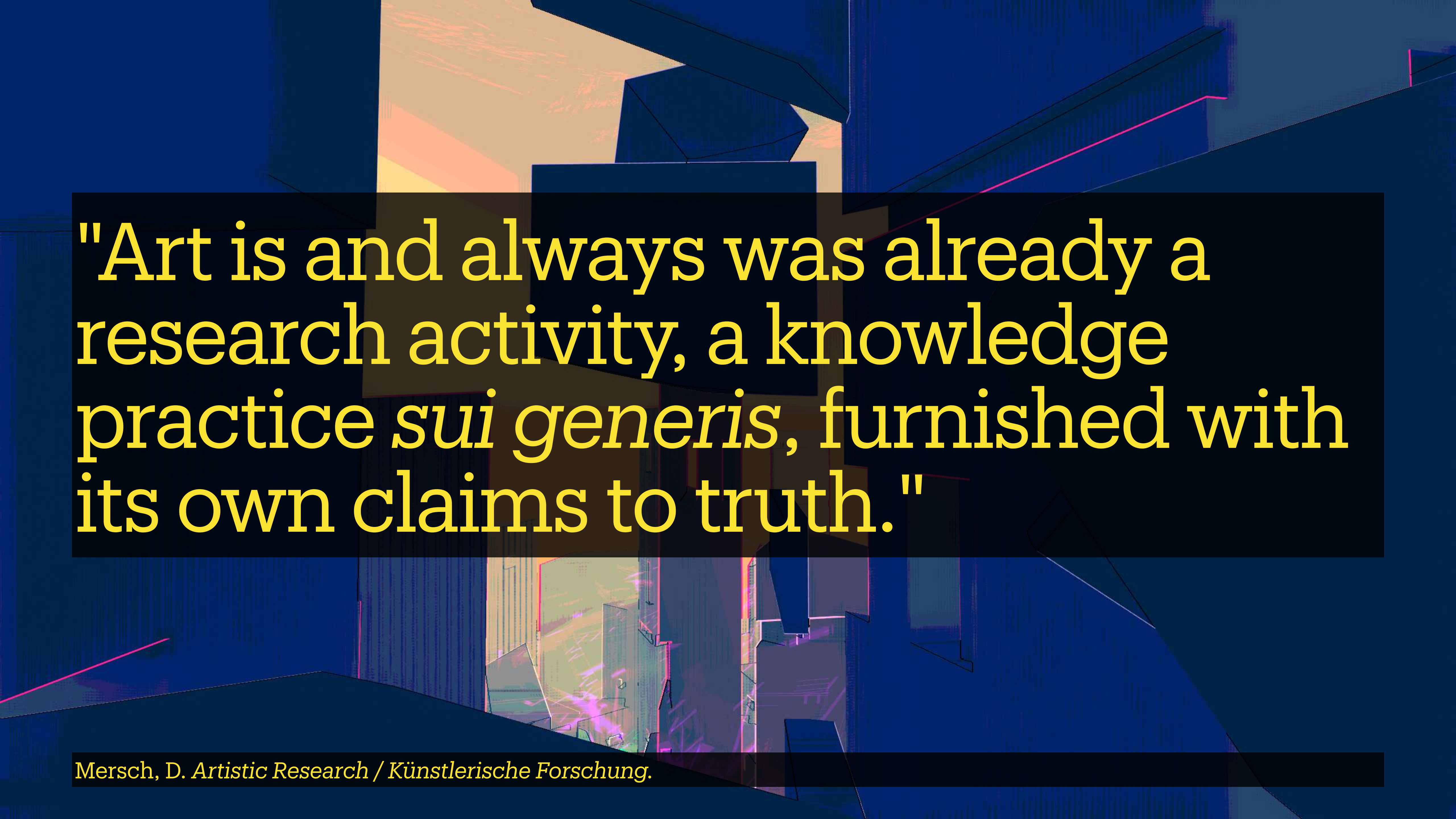


what separates design research
from design practice?




artistic research: *towards a mapping of the field*

Mersch, D. *Artistic Research / Künstlerische Forschung.*



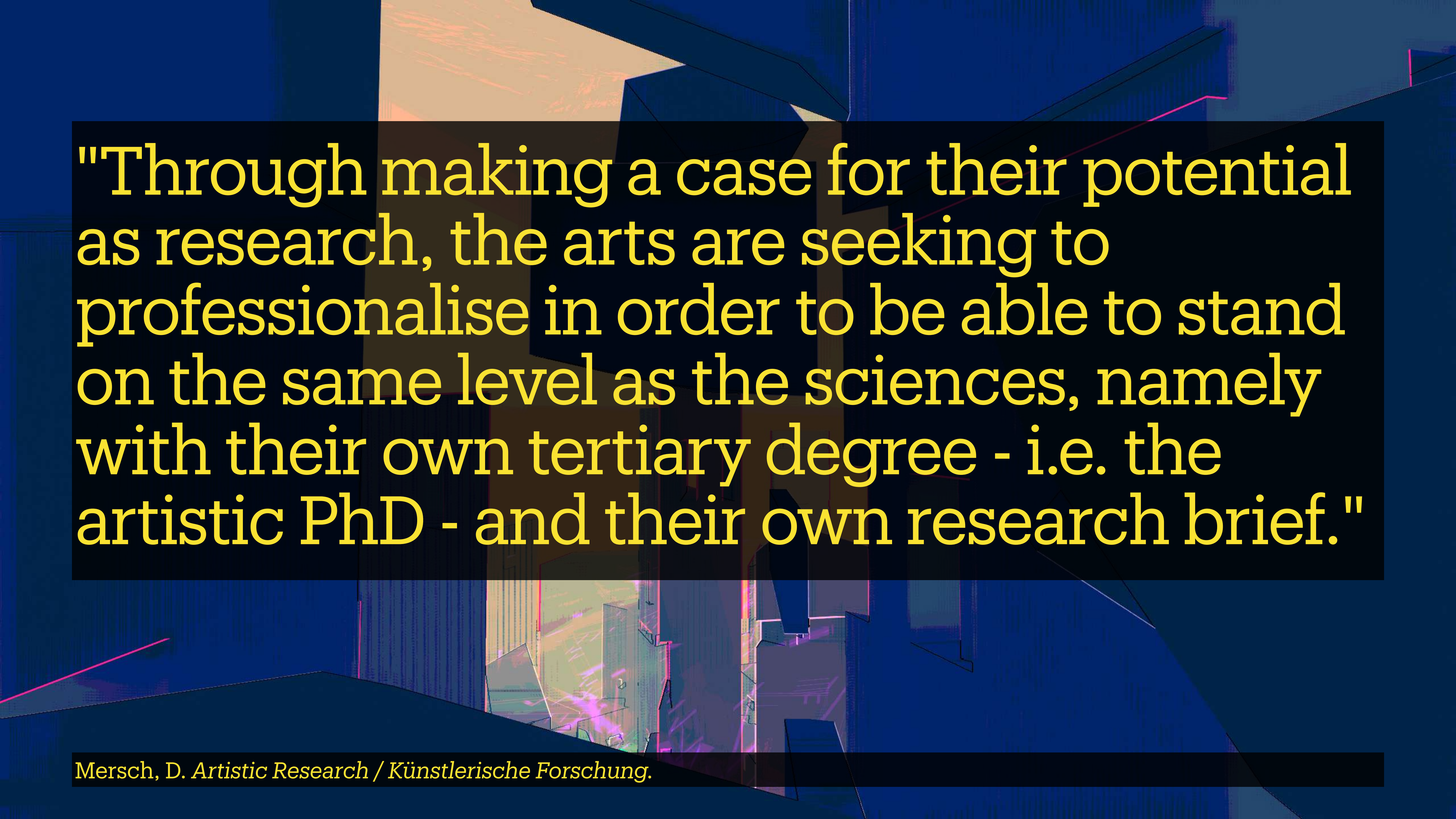
"Art is and always was already a research activity, a knowledge practice *sui generis*, furnished with its own claims to truth."



"Science is already a kind of art, to the extent that it shares the same creativity, only it is unaware of its own aesthetics, with the effect that these two categories converge."



"Artistic research forms a new and autonomous genre in the context of post-avantgardism, while at the same time being an interdisciplinary field."



"Through making a case for their potential as research, the arts are seeking to professionalise in order to be able to stand on the same level as the sciences, namely with their own tertiary degree - i.e. the artistic PhD - and their own research brief."

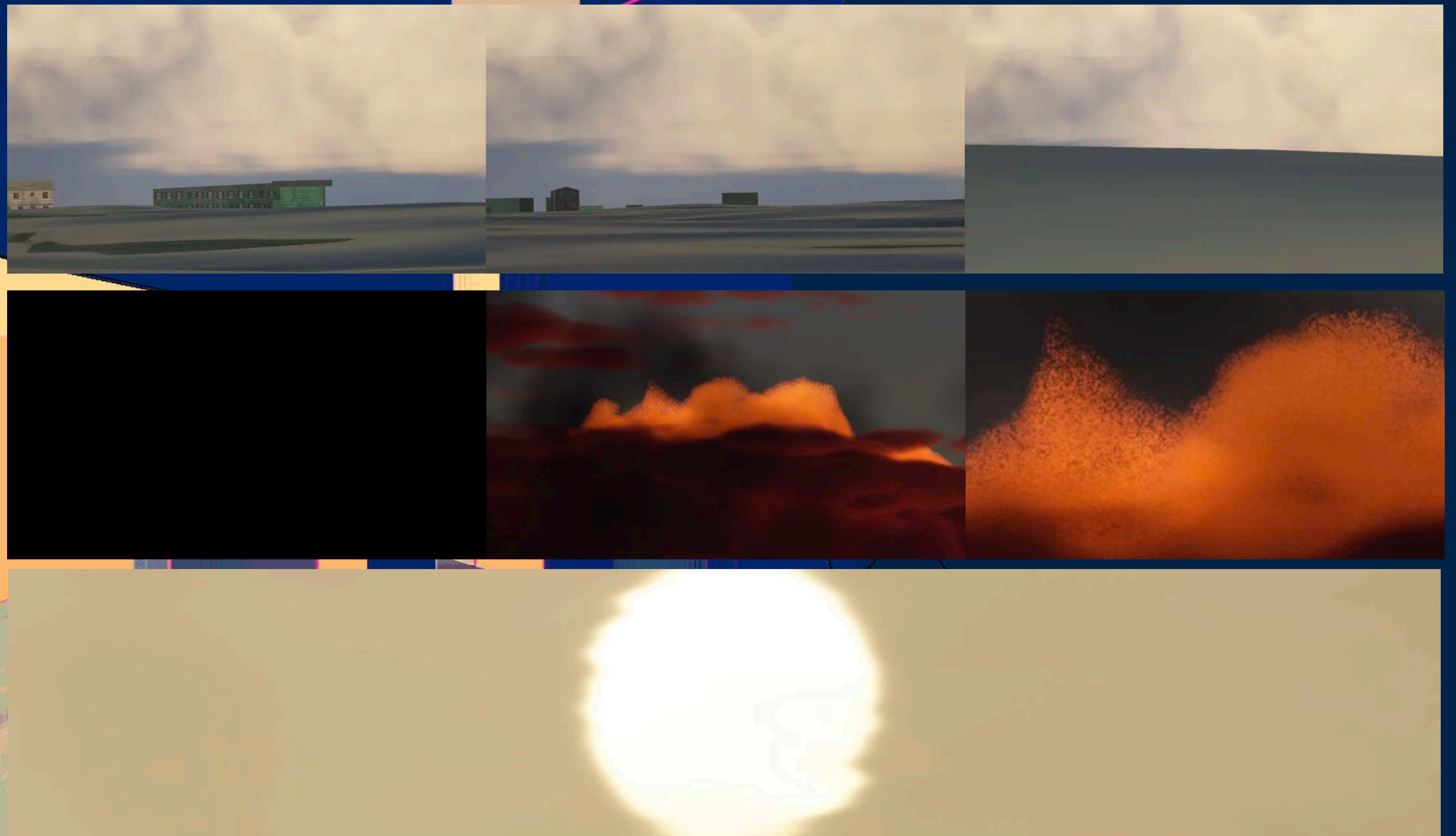
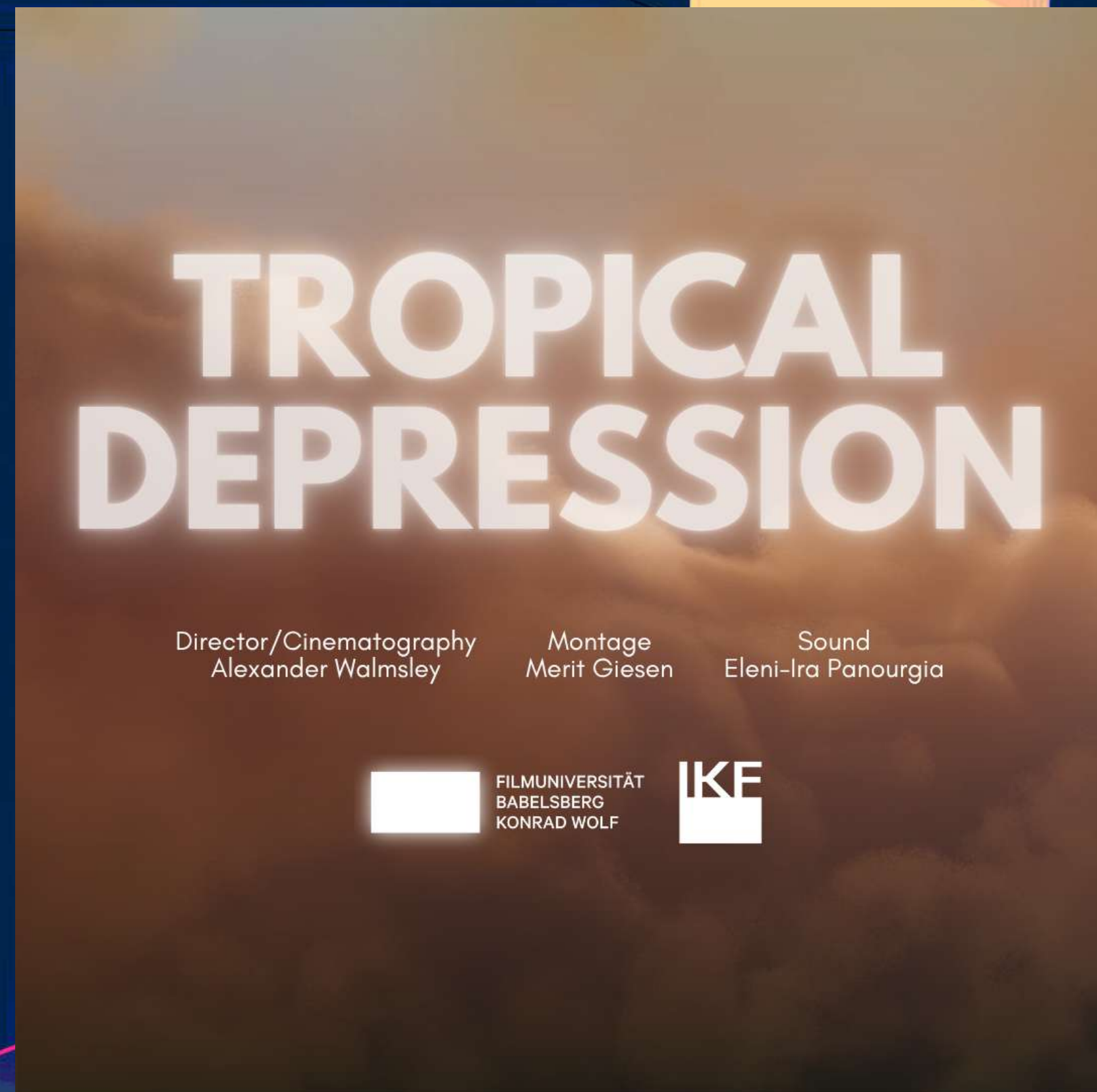
artistic research: examples



Artist: Manuel Flurin Hendry

<https://vimeo.com/hendryman/conversations-with-stanley-1>

artistic research: examples



<https://www.alexanderwalmsley.co.uk/tropical-depression-2025>

<https://vimeo.com/1092226529>

artistic research: examples



Artist: Hito Steyerl

<https://youtu.be/dsWv8FH9ACY?si=mqRIgJ691HyPU0ok>

society for artistic research (SAR)

RESEARCH CATALOGUE

AN INTERNATIONAL DATABASE FOR ARTISTIC RESEARCH

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The Research Catalogue (RC) is a non-commercial, collaboration and publishing platform for artistic research provided by the [Society for Artistic Research](#). The RC is free to use for artists and researchers. It serves also as a backbone for teaching purposes, student assessment, peer review workflows and research funding administration. It strives to be an open space for experimentation and exchange.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


>

SAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

>

RC VISUAL MAP / SCREENSHOT OF THE RC (2025)

[Casper Schipper](#)



A visual map of the RC. Hover over a screenshot to see the title and author. If you click you will see a gallery with a screenshot of each of its weaves. There is a form which allows you to filter based on title, author, keywords, abstract and date.


For an exposition to appear in this map, it needs to be public (share -> public or published). The map is updated once every 24 hours.

There is an alternative map that allows you to browse all research by keyword.

OPEN EXPOSITION

▲ THE LGP APARTMENT AS A PERFORMATIVE BOX: EROTICISM, RITUAL, AND DESIRE IN TRANSIT (2025)

[Lorena Crocetti](#)




▲ The LGP Apartment as a Performative Box: Eroticism, Ritual, and Desire in Transit explores how a domestic space becomes a stage for embodied performance, blending elements of eroticism, ritualistic acts, and transient desires. This work investigates the intersections between personal and performative identities within the confines of an intimate environment, highlighting the transformative power of space in shaping human experience and creative expression. Oriented to the

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DIALOGICAL PERFORMANCES & THE ATLAS EXHIBITION (2025)

[Research Catalogue](#)



PH.D. MIDTERM EVALUATION: OLIVER HAMBSCH (2025)

[Research Catalogue](#)



<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/>

Examples:

- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2419148/2959470> (Leanna Moran, 2024. 'Why I Paint Thousands of Circles' - Finalist 2024)
- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1576308/2474387> (Sarah Bennett, Andrew Bracey, Danica Maier. 2024. 'Controlled Rummage Approaches for Bummock: Tennyson Research Centre' - Winner 2024)
- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/94538/94539> (Gerhard Eckel, Michael Schwab, David Pirrò. 2020. 'Transpositions [TP]')
- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1265334/1869636/0/400> (Sheung Yiu, 2022. 'Spotting A Tree From A Pixel (With Remote Sensing Researchers)')
- <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/940166/943105/0/0> (Jim Lloyd, 2020. 'Future Earth Scream Now - The Solresol Birdsong Translator')

journals

- Leonardo
- Journal of Artistic Research (JAR)
- Moving Image Review and Arts Journal (MIRAJ)
- Nordic Journal for Artistic Research
- Journal of Sonic Studies
- Journal of Research in Art, Design and Society
- E-Flux/PARSE/ &&&/etc.

characteristics of artistic research

- Oriented towards generating aesthetic experiences
- Artistic process becomes methodology (image-making, sound design, editing, post-processing etc.)
- Epistemics based also on the giving of form (what Archer calles "modelling"), but guided by aesthetic exploration rather than problem-solving



what separates artistic research
from artistic practice?

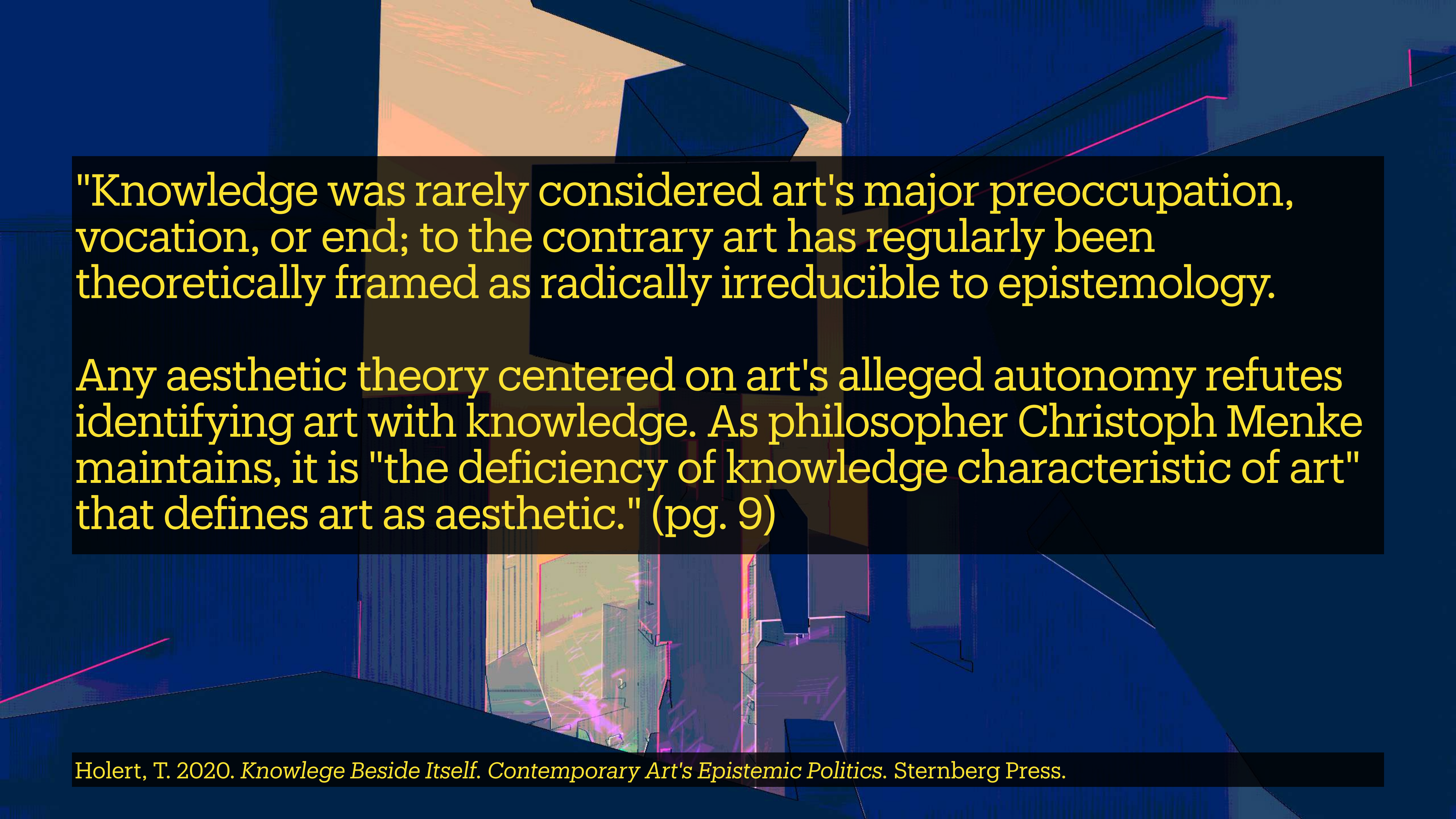


what challenges are raised by the
establishment of artistic research as a
field of research?



challenges:

what is the knowledge domain
of the arts?



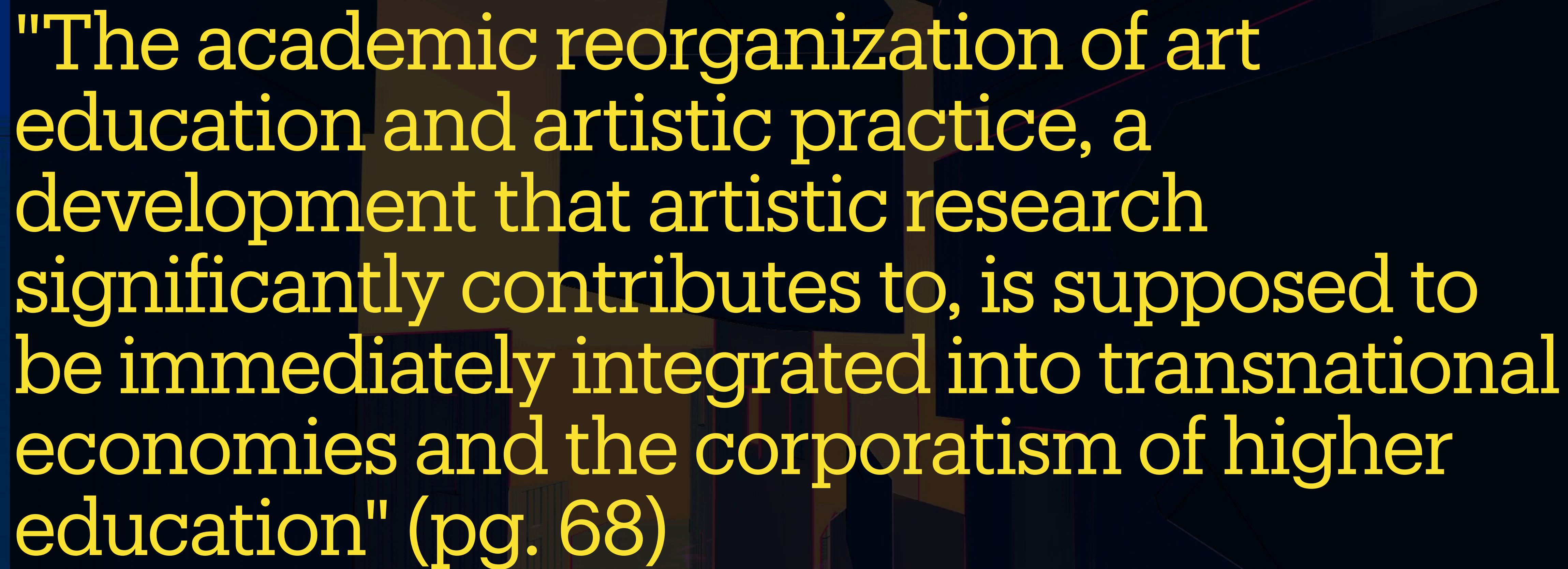
"Knowledge was rarely considered art's major preoccupation, vocation, or end; to the contrary art has regularly been theoretically framed as radically irreducible to epistemology.

Any aesthetic theory centered on art's alleged autonomy refutes identifying art with knowledge. As philosopher Christoph Menke maintains, it is "the deficiency of knowledge characteristic of art" that defines art as aesthetic." (pg. 9)



challenges:

what is the role of the arts in a
university context?

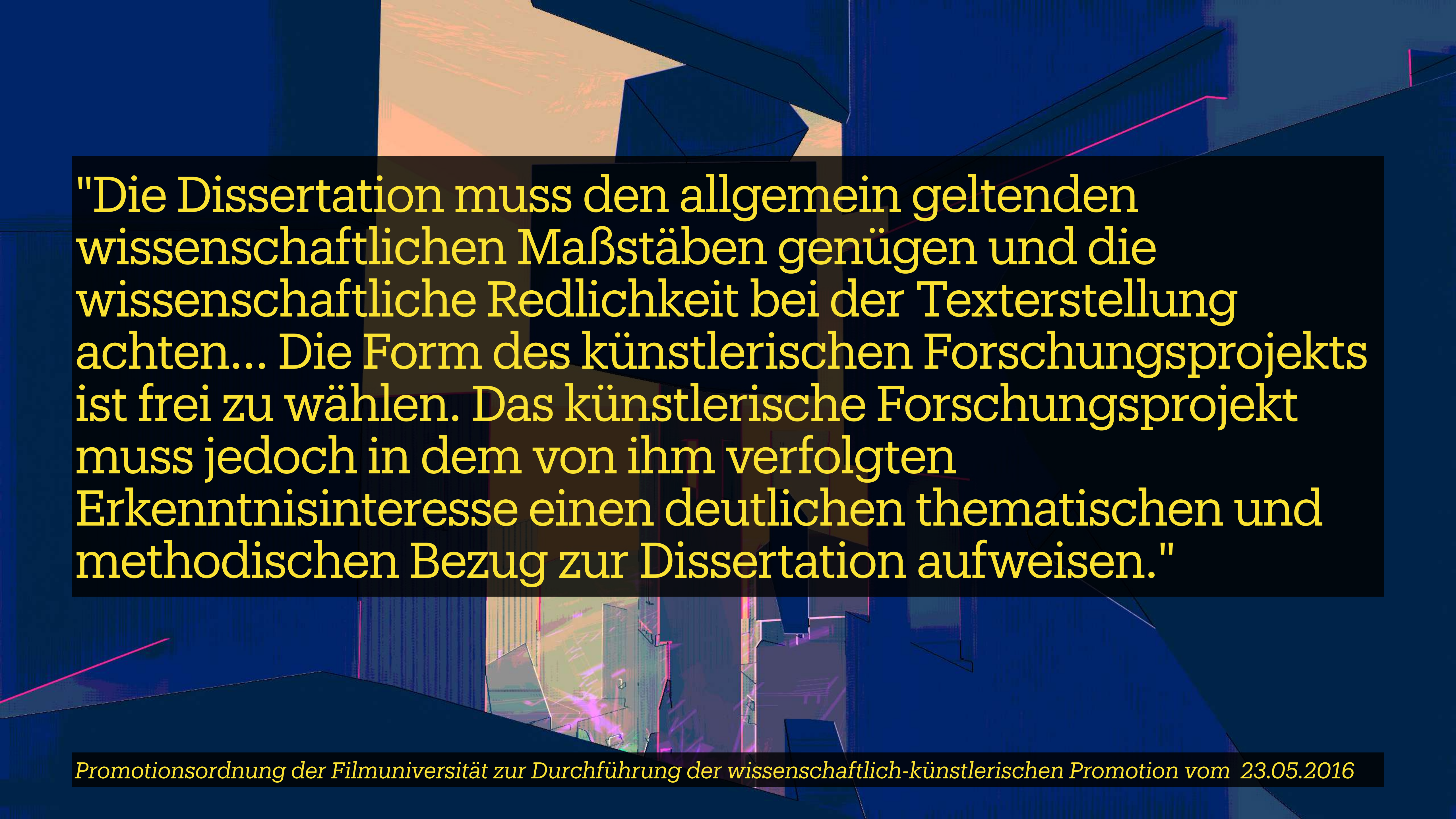
The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue field with various geometric shapes, including triangles and rectangles, in shades of blue, orange, and yellow. Some of these shapes have a textured, brush-stroke-like appearance. In the lower-left corner, there is a faint, stylized illustration of a cityscape at night, with buildings and a bridge, rendered in a light, sketchy style. The main text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area in the center of the slide.

"The academic reorganization of art education and artistic practice, a development that artistic research significantly contributes to, is supposed to be immediately integrated into transnational economies and the corporatism of higher education" (pg. 68)



challenges:

what is the relationship between
artwork and text?



"Die Dissertation muss den allgemein geltenden wissenschaftlichen Maßstäben genügen und die wissenschaftliche Redlichkeit bei der Texterstellung achten... Die Form des künstlerischen Forschungsprojekts ist frei zu wählen. Das künstlerische Forschungsprojekt muss jedoch in dem von ihm verfolgten Erkenntnisinteresse einen deutlichen thematischen und methodischen Bezug zur Dissertation aufweisen."



challenges:

how much research is good for
art?

Artforum
April 2023

GAGOSIAN

ARTFORUM

INFORMATION OVERLOAD

Claire Bishop on the superabundance of research-based art

Claire Bishop



View of "Wolfgang Tillmans: truth study center," 2005, Maureen Paley, London.

POSTCARDS, FAXES, AND EMAIL PRINTOUTS lie wanly in a vitrine. A plywood shelving unit holds rows of informational leaflets. One gallery wall is plastered with graphs and charts. Another is covered in hundreds of seemingly identical photographs. On a bank of video monitors, talking heads are explaining something. In a darkened corner, a slide projector clunks slowly through a carousel of images. Nearby, a 16-mm film whirs alongside a soporific voice-over. An illuminated table is covered in papers and newspaper clippings marked up with Post-its. Every object on display is accompanied by a lengthy explanatory caption written by the artist, also available as a pamphlet.

If any of this sounds familiar, you've been in the presence of research-based art. Although the elements vary, the genre is characterized by a reliance on text and discourse to support an abundance of materials, distributed spatially. The horizontal axis (vitrines, tables) tends to be privileged over the vertical, and the overall structure is additive rather than distilled, obeying a logic of more is more. Whenever I encounter one of these installations, I start to experience a feeling of mild panic: *How much time is it going to take to wade through this?*

"There are many reasons to be skeptical of the Ph.D.-in-fine-art boom. One is that it exacerbates hierarchies of economic privilege already endemic to art education. Another is that art, under the pressure of academicization, becomes tame, systematic, and professional... very few influential texts or manifestos by artists of the past would ever have earned their writers a doctorate, because some of the best writing by artists has been dogmatic and impulsive rather than laboriously researched and peer reviewed."

recap: towards a methodology for artistic research...

- what does a research methodology bring to art? what are the challenges in establishing the arts as a research discipline?
- how does artistic/design research differ from artistic/design practice?
- can a methodology be built that can support claims to truth but that does not aim at objectifying subjective experience?
- What is the role of the arts in the 21st century university? The role of the arts in 21st century society?

my case for artistic research...

in the increasing precarity of the arts both inside and outside the academy, artistic research seeks to provide a firm institutional and aesthetic grounding for practice.

Therefore, it is worth your time!!