

# Interdisciplinary Arts Education from an Authentic Perspective

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## **Abstract**

**Authentic arts education (Haanstra, 2011) is a pedagogical approach that criticizes the isolated and anachronistic nature of traditional arts education and its lack of connection to both contemporary, often interdisciplinary professional arts practice and to the needs of the student. Therefore, authentic arts education aims for meaningful connections between both the interests of the student, the professional world of the arts and contemporary societal issues. Heijnen (2015) has explored both the student's artistic activities and contemporary professional arts practices. His research has shown that students often participate in communities of practice which reflect popular culture, and that contemporary arts practice concentrates on interdisciplinary, conceptual and collaborative production (Heijnen, 2015). Authentic arts education draws on both these worlds when designing an arts curriculum and the Master of Arts Education of the Amsterdam University of the Arts has chosen to give authentic arts education a prominent place in its curriculum. Not only are the courses of the Master of Arts Education underpinned by the pedagogical approach of authentic arts education but students collaborate in a course in which they**

**learn how to design and execute an interdisciplinary arts programme based on the principles of authentic arts education too.**

**The objective of this round table presentation is to present and discuss (a) the educational and artistic principles of authentic arts education, (b) to present and discuss documentaries that exemplify the work of the Master students executing their interdisciplinary arts programme and (c) to present and discuss research looking into the implications of authentic arts education.**