Efva Lilja, Artist, Professor of Choreography, Artistic Director Dansehallerne Copenhagen

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A Presentation and a Summary of Previous Experiences

I regard my artistic work as a continuing study on how meaning is created in human communication and how insights gained from these studies can be applied in the artistic process. I do performances, site specifics, exhibitions, installations, films and I write books. Since I began in the 80's, my artworks have been performed in more than thirty-five countries and my films in yet others. For this I've been decorated and I have received a number of awards, grants and other recognitions.

Parallel to my artwork, I began as a researcher in the late 90's and have since then conducted five projects and been a co-researcher in yet another few (Sweden and UK), mainly within basic research on the linguistic dimension of movement and of movement as the memory of the body. I have had research grants from among others The Swedish Research Council, The University of Dance and from the Polar Research Institute. I was appointed Professor of Choreography in 2003, 2006-2013 I was the Vice-Chancellor of DOCH (University of Dance and Circus) in Stockholm and 2014-january 2015 I was the Expert Advisor in Artistic Research at the Ministry of Dansehallerne in Copenhagen

Many people know me as a driving force for the development of artistic research in Sweden and in the European context. Some years ago I was a member of a working group at the Ministry of Education and Research with the commission to work out strategies for an national artistic research school in the arts and a new exam: Doctor of Art – and we were successful. The national Konstnärliga forskarskolan was established in 2010 and the new PhD exam on artistic basis was implemented. The same year I started an artistic research education at DOCH. Before that I was a senior advisor and supervisor at the research education at TEAK in Helsinki and at the Norwegian Fellowship in the Arts. After that I've been engaged as an expert for quality assurance as well as for the development of leadership education with in the academic sector and last year I was a member of the Organisation Committee for a new arts university in Stockholm.

The assignments I have and have had, within the field of artistic research am numerous. I'm in the board of SAR (Society for Artistic research) and I have been in the board of ELIA (European League of Institutes in the Arts) as well as of the PEEK program at FWF (Austrian Research Council). I've been in the Board of The National Research School in the Arts; I've been in a working group for the review of national research subjects at The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, working in the SHARE project, in Artesnet and more... 2015 the Norwegian Government has appointed me member of the board of The Fellowship in the Arts Programme and 2015-2017 I'm the Chair of the Board for Artistic research in Denmark.

I also lecture nationally and internationally. Lately I've started to stage my lectures as events, thereby reaching a wider audience. These events have been commissioned by schools, companies, event bureaus, art forum, The National Art Council, The National Research Council, The Ministry of Culture, The Union of Municipalities, IETM, ELIA as well as numerous universities, mainly in Europe. My lectures focus most often on artistic research methodologies, on art and cultural policies or simply on my own methodologies as artist and researcher. During the last ten years I have presented 19 keynotes and more 11 papers on conferences as well as a number of articles. The articles have been published by ZHDK in Zürich, In Formation, ELIA, UdK in Berlin, Intellectual press, the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Government to mention a few.

It's a lot to be done to improve the situation for the arts. One way of doing it is to focus on education and research; another way is to engage in the development of cultural policies. Invited by the former President of the EU-Commission, José Manuel Barroso, I was engaged in the project: A New Narrative for Europe, with meetings in Brussels, Warsaw, Milan, Berlin and Venice 2013-2014. In 2012 I was one among twelve European artists appointed by EU to engaged in The Team Culture. 2016 I'm invited member of ECP, The European Cultural Parliament. I've learned to be a strong voice for the arts also in the corridors of politicians...

To work for the improvement of the conditions for artist to do research, is a privilege. I have experiences of research, fundraising, advocacy and leadership. I know the importance of teamwork, coaching and supervising and I have strong networks. From my years as Vice-Chancellor I learned a lot on management and administration. My strength is leadership, I'm a good collaborator and I have deep knowledge in artistic research and a strong believe in the importance of art in today multicultural and diverse society.

More info on my work and complete CV on: www.efvalilja.se