



Hanze
University of Applied Sciences
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Research Centre Art & Society

GUILD
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Blurring performance and participation: Developing a music practice at a walk-in house for people with dementia

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Karolien Dons | 20.10.2016
Arts Without Borders, Helsinki

Karolien's PhD study

AIM:

Understanding the ways musicians and participants of collaborative music practices with vulnerable people *together* shape the collaboration to something that is meaningful for both.



The Dillinger Escape - Derek Bremner Photography

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Music at the Odensehuis

WHO

7 classical musicians (1 composer)

Studying or recently graduated

OUTCOME

Song cycle + performance

INSPIRATION

Musicians becoming members of the house

DURATION

3 months

Preparational phase

ARTISTIC LEADER

Project design

Leading the implementation, musician team and artistic process



BEING HERE

I put my arms around my life
embracing it slowly

I am painting a house
I feel the autumn around me

I sit with familiar faces
some smiles some frowns

Somebody's pouring tea into my cup
and I can hear people singing
"Don't forget to live"

I put my arms around my life
slowly embracing it

I can visit the past
but I can't live inside it

That's ok –
I can be here right now.

Moment 1: Artistic leader exploring

Moment 2: Musician introducing himself at the house



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Moment 3: Sharing work-in-progress at the house



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A continuously transforming collaborative format

- Project design is contextualised: developed bottom-up;
- Musicians and audience explore and respect each other's territories;
- Forms of meeting where music and reciprocity stand central;
- Mixing forms of presentation and participation.

Fostering the following results:

- Roles of musicians and audience fade and intertwine;
- Invisible wall that traditionally divides musicians and audience is questioned;
- Co-created and tailor-made artistic products emerge.



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Karolien Dons

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