

# Unleashing Creative Exploration: The Power of Practice As Research In The Arts

When one thinks about research, the usual image that comes to mind is that of scientists meticulously conducting experiments in a laboratory or scholars poring over books in a quiet library. However, in the realm of the arts, research takes on a form that embraces creativity, experimentation, and innovation. This is where the concept of Practice As Research (PAR) comes into play, providing a platform for artists to delve deep into their practice while simultaneously advancing knowledge in their respective fields.

## What is Practice As Research?

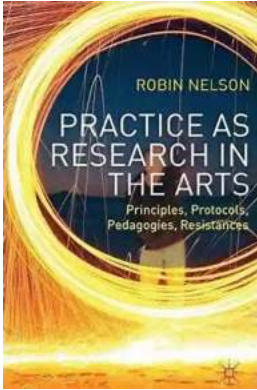
Practice As Research encompasses a range of methodologies and approaches that integrate artistic practice with research activities. It is more than simply documenting or reflecting on artistic processes. PAR involves artists engaging in an inquiry-driven exploration of their artistic work, generating new insights, and contributing to the development of disciplinary knowledge.

Traditionally, research in the arts has been confined to written forms such as essays or academic papers. While these forms of research have their merits, they often fail to capture the non-linear, embodied, and aesthetic elements that define the artistic experience. Practice As Research offers a unique opportunity to bridge this gap by emphasizing artistic practice and its inherent value as a research methodology.

## **Practice as Research in the Arts: Principles, Protocols, Pedagogies, Resistances**

by Robin Nelson (2013th Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5



Language	: English
File size	: 2034 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 246 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



## **The Benefits of Practice As Research**

Practising artists who engage in PAR have the chance to deepen their understanding of their craft and expand their artistic horizons. By incorporating research into their practice, artists can explore unconventional techniques, challenge existing assumptions, and push the boundaries of their artistic discipline.

PAR also opens doors to collaboration and interdisciplinary exchanges. Artists who embrace PAR often find themselves collaborating with scholars, scientists, and experts from various fields, leading to the creation of innovative and impactful artworks that transcend traditional boundaries. These collaborative ventures enable artists to tap into knowledge pools outside their immediate artistic circles, sparking new ideas and fostering intellectual growth.

## **How Does Practice As Research Work?**

Practice As Research encompasses various methodologies tailored to the diverse artistic practices. Whether it is dance, theatre, visual arts, music, or any other artistic medium, PAR offers artists the freedom to investigate their craft in ways that resonate with their own creative processes.

One common approach within PAR is the integration of reflective practices. Artists may document their creative journey through journals, audio or video recordings, or even online platforms, allowing them to explore their underlying motivations, intentions, and the impact of their work.

Another key element of PAR is the notion of knowledge creation. As artists delve deep into their practice, they generate insights, methodologies, and concepts that contribute to the advancement of knowledge within their artistic field. Through experimentation, trial and error, and constant reflection, artists expand the boundaries of what is known and create new possibilities for future artistic endeavors.

## **The Challenges and Criticisms**

As with any emerging field, Practice As Research is not without its challenges and criticisms. Some argue that the integration of research into artistic practice compromises the integrity of the artistic process, leading to works that are more academic exercises than genuine artistic expressions.

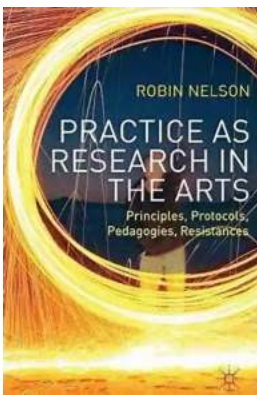
Additionally, the evaluation and assessment of PAR outputs can be complex. Traditional modes of assessment, such as peer-reviewed publications, may not fully capture the richness and diversity of artistic outcomes. Finding appropriate evaluation methods that acknowledge the unique nature of PAR remains an ongoing debate within the field.

## **The Future of Practice As Research**

Despite these challenges, Practice As Research continues to gain recognition and momentum within the arts community. Universities and institutions are increasingly embracing PAR as a valid form of research, offering dedicated programs and resources to support artists engaged in this practice.

As the boundaries between disciplines blur, the potential for cross-pollination between art, science, and other fields becomes more evident. Practice As Research paves the way for exciting collaborations and innovative creations that challenge societal norms and inspire new ways of thinking.

, Practice As Research empowers artists to delve deeper into their practice, creating works that push the limits of their artistic discipline while contributing to the development of knowledge in their respective fields. It is a dynamic and evolving field that offers endless possibilities for artistic exploration, collaboration, and innovation. So, let us embrace Practice As Research and unleash the creative potential that lies within it!



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At the performance turn, this book takes a fresh 'how to' approach to Practice as Research, arguing that old prejudices should be abandoned and a PaR methodology fully accepted in the academy. Nelson and his contributors address the questions students, professional practitioner-researchers, regulators and examiners have posed in this domain.



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