




# ART EDUCATORS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

.....  
*MRRER Lecture Series - 17/12/2015 - prof. Ann Laenen*



**I WOULD LIKE TO START MY LECTURE  
WITH THIS . . .**



<http://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tramway/exhibition/turner-prize-2015>



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## A run-down estate in Liverpool... this year's Turner Prize winner: Collective of 16 artists win award for helping to regenerate houses in Toxteth suburb of the city

- Estate had fallen into disrepair in the years after the 1981 Toxteth riots
- Judges praised Assemble for helping without 'corporate gentrification'
- Winning collective of 16 artists described the £25,000 prize as 'surreal'
- Beat a display of chairs with fur coats on them and a vocal display

Art critic Estelle Lovatt said that having Assemble as one of the nominees made this year's Turner Prize different. "Not since the Renaissance has art had such an input on the community," she said, adding: "Leonardo da Vinci would have loved it."

<http://www.itv.com/news/2015-12-07/assemble-announced-2015-turner-prize-winner/>

## Turner prize 2015

# Power to the people! Assemble win the Turner prize by ignoring the art market

The young architecture collective extend their artfulness into everyday life. Their work is a welcome, and vital, part of a bigger battle against social division under the Tories



SECTIONS

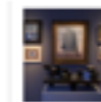


The New York Times

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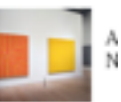


MoMA to Organize Collections That Cross Artistic Boundaries



ART REVIEW  
A Sumptuous Surrealist Moment in Manhattan

PAID POST: OLAY  
Which Products Will Make You Look Younger?



VACHERON CONSTANTIN  
GENEVE, DEPUIS 1755

This distinction could take a work of art from "good" to "timeless"

DISCOVER IT

## ART & DESIGN

# Assemble Design Collective Wins Britain's Turner Prize

By CHRISTOPHER D. SHEA DEC. 7, 2015

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LONDON — The architecture and design collective Assemble was awarded the Turner Prize, Britain's leading contemporary art award, on Monday. The group was nominated for a project in which it refurbished derelict Victorian-era houses with the help of residents in a working-class neighborhood



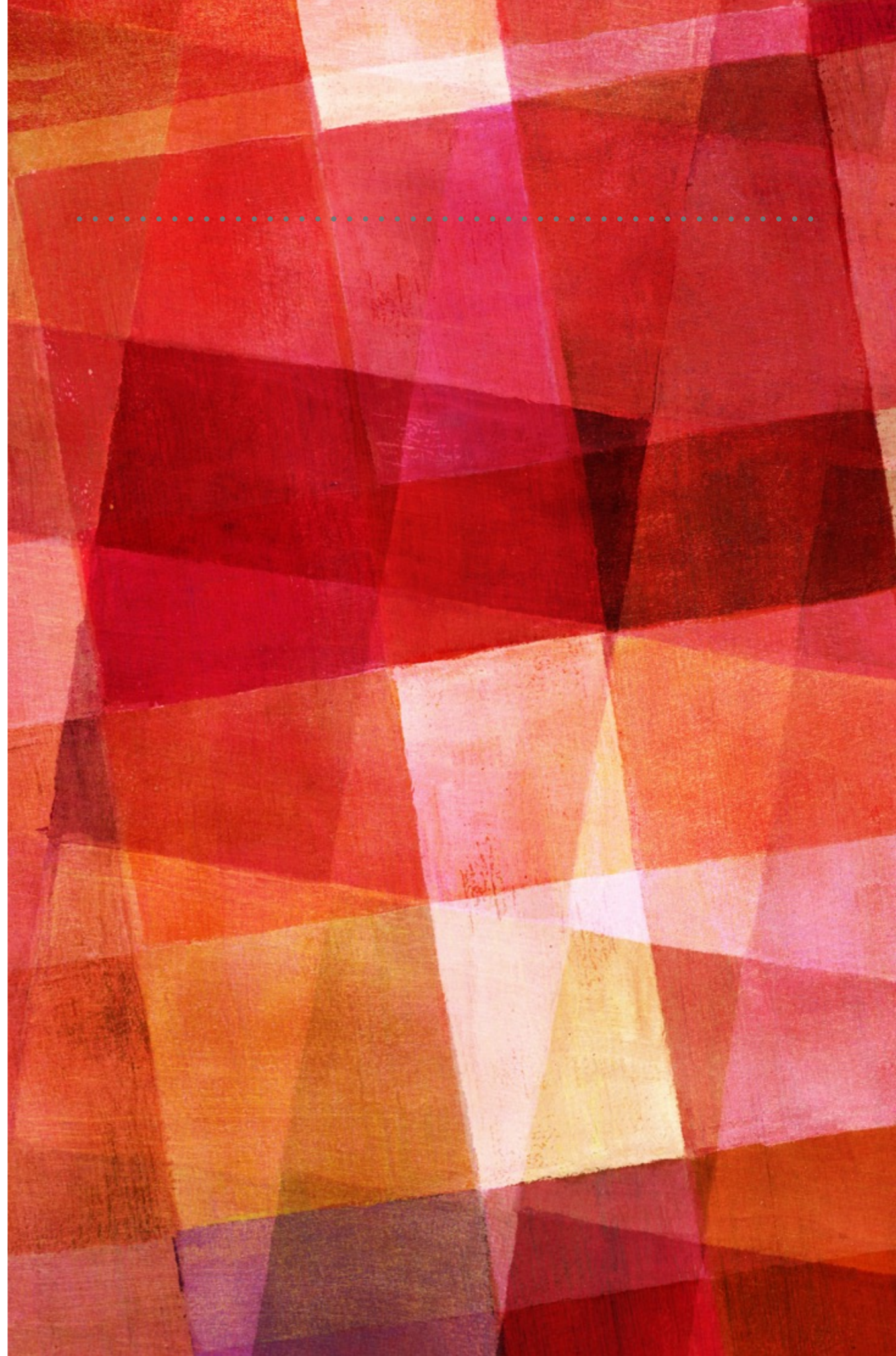
**THE GRANBY WORKSHOP IS  
KICKSTARTED THROUGH THE TURNER  
PRIZE EXHIBITION**

**GRANBY FOUR STREETS  
LIVERPOOL**



# IT IS ABOUT

- art
- design
- interdisciplinarity
- regeneration
- community
- empowerment
- engagement
- collective
- co-creation
- process
- collaboration
- crowdsourcing
- ...



**WHAT DOES THIS IMPLY FOR HIGHER  
ARTS EDUCATION?**





*It means that art schools stand at the threshold of multidisciplinary art research and intradisciplinary art production - not as one more theoretical seminar or “multimedia” audio among stubbornly traditional course offerings, or one more state - of-the-arts degree, but as the next wave of cultural production. The artist of the twenty-first century may become in some sense Renaissance folk, deploying a panoply of disciplines and mediums for their work*

*-Pujol E. , 2009 - in “Art School (positions for the 21st Century)”*



In 1998 Ulbricht wrote:

*“With increasing specialisation in each discipline, and the decontextualisation of knowledge, the need for an interdisciplinary educational perspective has reemerged.”*

Ulbricht, J. , 1998 - Interdisciplinary Art Education Reconsidered Art Education.



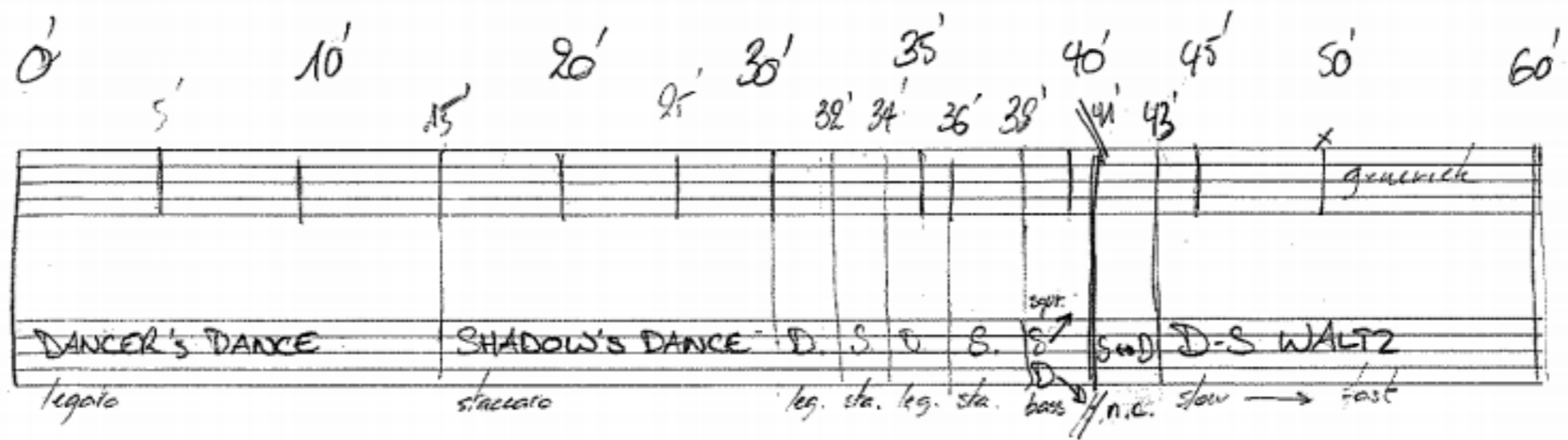
*Contemporary education is seeking new teaching methods, which will help it keep up with the challenge of multidimensional social reality, in order to be able to meet the needs of our time and deal with the complex nature of the problems that arise. The interdisciplinary approach is proposed for the counterbalancing of the lack of flexibility of one-dimensional thinking and the dispersion of knowledge. This is an approach which favors an holistic overview of all things, creativity, initiative and imagination.*

*-Matsagouras I., 2002 -“Interdisciplinarity and Cross-thematic Curricula: Ways of organizing school knowledge.”*

But neither pure disciplinary based education, nor just inter/trans/multidisciplinary based education in the Arts is an answer to the demands we encounter when training artists and arts educators today.

- It is question to find the right balance between the two in order to give space to the students to grow as an artist and to be able to keep up with the challenges of society.
  - We had this in mind when designing the framework for the Faculty of the Arts:
    - rethink the studios and the relations between them (arts, design, media, music and drama in 1 Faculty).
    - see where interdisciplinary work could be added.
    - try to find ways to link Art Practice, Art Theory and Research in the Arts organically in the curriculum (studio model starting from research, feeding into education).

# **INTERDISCIPLINARY EXAMPLE**



**seeingsound.be - vocabulary**

This interdisciplinary project is now part of the curriculum. Composition and Animation Film students co-create. A new kind of vocabulary emerges.



# **BRIDGING RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND THEORY**





*Universities of the Arts need to step into the field of artistic research and aesthetic innovation not leaving the field for the art market in defining the direction of the development of the Arts*

*-Bast G., 2015 - Fighting Creative Illiteracy*



*'Inter-Actions'*, is the research unit at LUCA/KU Leuven Faculty of the Arts I was part of that bundles a series of research groups focusing on design and artistic research, evoking inter-actions between people, domains and disciplines, while exploring the possibilities of old and new materials, artefacts, media, spaces and events. By separating “inter” from “actions”, the unit stresses that its research wants to stimulate people “acting (actions) together (inter)” in cross-disciplinary or participatory set-ups.

**CO-DESIGN / CO-CREATION /  
INTER-ACTION**



*The terms co-design and co-creation are today often confused and/or treated synonymously with one another. Opinions about who should be involved in these collective acts of creativity, when, and in what role vary widely.*

*-Sanders E., -2008, “Co-creation and the new landscapes of design”*

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS – PHD SUPERVISION – TEACHING – CONSULTANCY

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selection of recent publications on interaction, co-design, community involvement, art assessment, art education,interdisciplinarity in arts education, ...:

- 2012 - Laenen A., Aandacht voor de vrije ruimte - reflectie op de nota Groeien in Cultuur educatie (respect for free space - reflection on the study “Growing in cultural education”) in Rektoverso:Antwerp.
- 2013 – Van Mechelen M., Zaman B. , vanden Abeele V. & Laenen. A, Co-design revisited: exploring problematic co-design dynamics in kids, CHI 2013 (Paris) workshop Methods of Working with Children in Interaction Design.
- 2014 – Van Mechelen M., Zaman B. , vanden Abeele V. & Laenen. A, Exploring challenging group dynamic in participatory design – IDC 2014.
- 2015 – Van Mechelen M., Zaman B., Laenen A.& vanden Abeele V., Challenging Group Dynamics in Participatory Design with Children: Lessons from Social Interdependence Theory – IDC 2015.
- 2015 – Laenen, A. & S. Kolgen, The social aspect of digital storytelling; a case study: Jefke Tuf, an interactive documentary about soul carers then and now in a former coalmining community: Cultural Mapping – Debating Spaces and Places, 21-23 October 2015 Valletta.
- 2015 - paper submitted: Van Mechelen M, Derboven J, Laenen A. , Willems B. , Geerts D., Vanden Abeele V., The GLID Method: Moving From Design Features to Underlying Values in Co-design,International Journal of Human-Computer Studies.
- 2016 - In print now: Laenen, A. Interdisciplinaire trajecten in het hoger kunstvakonderwijs (interdisciplinary programmes in higher arts education) in *Muziekpedagogiek in Beweging* , Euprint:Heverlee.

# TEACHING

- Current course:
  - active design processes - collaborative projects : 3BA Digital Arts - UoM
- In the past years: 3BA and MA Communication Media Design and Fine Arts - LUCA/KU Leuven - Faculty of the Arts:
  - change management
  - project management
  - media critics
  - master seminar on arts and society
  - supervision master projects





**THANK YOU**

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