

vocabulary

of participatory
art practices with
communities

how
we stay
together



Mediator

A mediator is a person who possesses a certain type or types of art. And they know how to tell about this art or arts, how to show it and how to lead others into it.

/Vira Ibriamova-Syvoraksha/

A mediator is a person who has a certain set of professional qualities, but also, who, by sharing them, is aiming to co-create with others. And a mediator is someone who shares, who offers joint actions as a starting point but is ready to let the current lead further. There is a starting point, but it is unknown where it will lead us.

/Yaryna Shumska/

Participatory practices

Participatory practices are art practices where artists and participants create art together as equals. There is one starting point from which everyone starts their journey. This journey can have results. But the main focus is on the process.

/Vira Ibriamova-Syvoraksha/

In the word “participant” there is a coded particle that indicates attachment to something, so it defines itself quite clearly. Participatory practices are an agreement to participate, to be part of something bigger. It is an opportunity to completely fulfill yourself, your desires, your interests. But at the same time to be attentive to those around you and remember that everyone here is a part of this team. And the common goal is the life of this organism, this team. Then everything becomes simple and everyone feels good. And everyone can make new discoveries together in this way.

/Yaryna Shumska/

Inclusion

Inclusion in working with artists with Down syndrome is a constant process of understanding where help is needed and where it is not. And it does not change from person to person. Needs change over time - in relationships, understanding, or walking somewhere together. Inclusion is related mainly to people who cannot do something or can do it differently than most people. Inclusivity can concern, for example, people of retirement age or children. These persons have different experiences, different levels of perception of different skills. Clarification in inclusion is very personal and very different. And then - walking, joint activities, work, pastime. And again – a constant effort to understand what to do together next.

/Stanislav Turina/

Inclusion is very valuable and closely related to openness. One of the signs of participatory art is when you can talk about helping a person who has certain needs. At the same time, in situations where processes are built on an equal footing with persons who understand art and how it can be created, differently, when the difference of these people is present, then one cannot

call, for example, neurodiverse artists as those who need help. They are open in some moments where the neurotypical people are closed, so it is the latter who needs help to immerse into a joint process.

Inclusivity is not only about physical or mental disabilities, it is about the opportunity to be open to each other and perceive others as equals. Important elements of participatory art are openness, process immersion, coexistence, inclusiveness, co-creation, and everything related to open-source process programming.

/Yurii Kruchak/

Institution

An institution is a unit that works on the development, collection and evolution of a certain field of knowledge that is an expert, both locally and internationally. This is a unit that has statutes, program activities. Even if something changes it still consciously moves in the designated direction. There must be an understanding of professionalization. It is good when many different institutions are professionalizing. Then the cultural field becomes healthier and more capable. It is also a unit that has certain capacities that it could share: knowledge, place, methodologies, support, and opportunities. It is also a resource for other people. Participatory practices and the institution as an idea are tangential to the fact that certain phenomena are programmed according to world trends, correspond to or precede them. One such trend is a change in the understanding of how knowledge is produced: it is no longer the case that there is one knowledge bearer who shares the knowledge, but rather that knowledge is produced through participatory practices in a group where everyone is a knowledge bearer.

To a certain extent, we can orientate ourselves on world trends. At the same time, for example, in the situation of the russian war in Ukraine, knowledge should be developed precisely in Ukraine, since, unfortunately, there is no one to learn from. Therefore, Ukrainians develop knowledge that would give the prospect of a fairer future.

/Yuliia Kostereva/

Community

A community is a group that can be united by certain needs or interests. Also, the association can be based on the criterion of the territory or a virtual or physical place. The community can feel itself as one through participatory practices. Also important is the process when the practices are finished, but the feeling of belonging to something bigger remains. A community may begin as a group and come to realize itself as a community. In this definition of community, the word “people” is missing, because the community can be non-human beings, not people. When in the processes of participatory practices there is communication with the environment: with trees, microorganisms, mushrooms, and animals, then there is an understanding that people are not the only ones manifested in this world and should build practices and their lives taking into account the fact that everyone is interdependent. Knowledge can come not only from human to human but from completely different forms manifested in this universe.

/Anna Gaidai/