



The importance of asking the 'right' questions: considering issues of interpretation in art- as-research

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This paper takes a 'research/creation' approach to questions of interpretation in art-as-research, exploring the topic from personal, poetic, theoretical, and contextual standpoints, proposing not to 'solve' the problem, but rather to 'surround it.' In other words, in practice-led research such as is embodied in this essay, a question may not yield a definitive single answer, but rather through a collection of ideas and images, suggest possibilities for further engagement. Thus, this paper becomes a fragment in the author's collage interpretation of questions of art and interpretation in the early 21st century. In the spirit of feminist scientist Donna Haraway's 'modest witness,' the author offers formative research about the problem of interpretation in art-as-research as she sees it at this current moment from her particular standpoint, drawing on art theory and history, literary and cultural studies, education, and observation of the author's Canadian contexts of creative/research practices. From these vantage points, the author proposes that art-as-research may be a revolutionary form of art that demands new interpretive forms.