

Photography (and other lens-based media) have had a prominent role in the development of artistic research. It is a field that still is finding its forms and agencies. However, today it is more important to shift focus from questions concerning what artistic research is and how it should be defined, and start asking what artistic research have done and can do. What methods and praxis have been fruitful, and what need to be developed to make artistic research more relevant within the own and other research fields, the art scene, and for society at large? How should the field of artistic research develop a critique which help us articulating the quality of the artistic led inquiry, and – not at least – ways of formulating and share the findings, learnings and results of the research. The paper will address these questions through a selection of PhD-thesis and research projects in photography from the last decade. They will serve as case studies that ground the discussion in concrete examples, which also will show how artistic research can contribute to a deeper understanding of photography, and how photography can be an agent in research in other fields.