

Abstract

Working from an art-didactic perspective, this research project aims to examine how, in a health-care setting, a relational and socially engaged art-practice can be developed to better enable the care and management of those elderly patients suffering from dementia. Because the management of many such patients is currently through the use of psychoactive-mediations (such as anti-psychotics) it is imperative to find alternative, more humane and more respectful methods for the care of such patients. This research project examines one possible avenue for the management of such patients namely, one based on an art-didactic approach. The research is conducted in two institutions, which is a dedicated facility for the care of elderly dementia sufferers.

The article makes inquiries into how poetic documentation effects didactic choices in a process-orientated practice. The methodological entrance in the research process is a/r/tography as art informed enquiry and practice-led research that explores a dialogic framework that involves an understanding of qualitative research as an interconnected and mutually influential series of dialogic processes. The empirical material for this article is mainly gathered through poetic documentation and will be displayed as a poetic narrative. The study interprets the art didactic practice as a catalyst for communication between the artist, the patient and the caretaker, where poetic documentation are identified in the material as a central didactic component that enables applied art qualities as *affective encounters through different materials, integration of lived experience* and the parties possibilities of *being in the becoming* together. Outcomes of the study will be communicated both through theorisation (as in this article) and through an arena for learning focusing on collaborative aspects between the parties in the field of health and health education, researcher and artist.

Keywords: applied art qualities, practice-led research, a/r/tography, poetic documentation, the becoming, art didactics, dementia care, and relational and socially engaged art.