

Artists in the President's Cabinet?

Text of Performance video translated into English.

BJN - ...Is it possible to consider artists in terms of expert in the same way as other experts such as an economist or scientist?...

EP - ...Why not have an artist in the President's cabinet? Why not? But is it their quality as an artist that will help them get there or is it their general qualities (in the plural) that makes this interesting because they feed into each other?...

MC - What does expertise mean in a scientific context? And does this translate to an artistic context for example?

JL - ...In terms of developing a hypothesis I feel this would be difficult, they would need to be also a doctor or a biologist and an artist for example. Here an artist's creativity can help to understand or imagine how a hypothesis can be approached...

MTM - we consider [artists] as experts, and it is a cooperation which cuts both ways. Just to be clear, we do not 'use' them, there is cooperation, they have a lot of influence on how they work with us...

BJN - ...the lines between what it means to be an artist, the artist's identity, has become far more blurry and diluted...

AH - I am not for artists in the President's cabinet, I am for artists as President. So I distance myself further away from this shared vision...

EP - The artist Robert Fillou said ' Whatever you do, do something else'. There are many artists who will say 'I'm an activist artist', 'I'm a feminist artist', 'I'm an ecological artist', it's also the way which we present how things are. Whilst others are not part of this type of discourse, this doesn't make their work any less interesting, but their value can be found through another form of expression in their work...

AH - It's not the final creative work or completed art object but the fact of doing, the gesture, which is important...

BJN - ...There are many things which profoundly influence our lives which have become increasingly abstract. In abstract I am not necessarily talking about it in aesthetic terms but in the sense that they have become more integrated with their surroundings and environment...

AH -... In terms of artists as experts, what sort of expertise do we want to have? Do we want a relationship of experience and expertise with art? For me that is the pertinent question.

Audience - I am an artist, I work with scientists, and for me it's often about going into a team, and participating at the moment of working things out - not after, it's also in these moments that artists can help in the mediation and achievement of results for their research. For me art is not here, it is to help understand the unknown as artists carry out the same work as scientists but in their own way...