

Drawing as Data in Practice-Based Research

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Abstract

The ability of visual artists to use their thought process as a key element in generating data cannot be overemphasized in studio practice. Reflective thinking, otherwise known as critical thinking allow artists to focus on the process of doing and making judgment about what is going to happen or what has happened in the creation of artworks. Artists could articulate ideas in realism, abstract and conceptual terms depending on the thought process. This paper brings to fore the significance of observational method of data collection using drawing or sketches as viable tools in gathering data in the Practice-Based research. The paper further focuses on “The Exploration of Stilt Dance Forms in Sculpture” a Ph.D. sculpture research in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. The paper concludes by giving an insight on the significance of reflective thinking and observational approach in developing drawings in the practice-based research in sculpture. Some experiences observed during the study are presented as findings of the study. One of such findings is that the study emphasises the synergy of observational method and reflective action using drawing. This is significant because the researcher’s power of imagination is tested and put in place in creating several imaginative drawings that are finally translated into sculptures.

Keywords: Reflective Thinking, Drawing as Data, Observational Method, Critical Thinking, and Practice-Based.