

**Hannelore van Den Abeele** (Hasselt University Belgium SEIN - Identity, Diversity & Inequality Research - Faculty of Business Economics) has a rich experience in the field of arts (organisation, teaching, research).

Before joining UHasselt in 2021, she worked as a lecturer at LUCA School of Arts for 18 years, as a manager in cultural organisations such as Mercatorfonds, Antwerpen93 and Artis Historia for 15 years and led the company arte&arte she founded in 1995.

In 2020 she was awarded a PhD in Organisation Studies at the University of Nottingham with the thesis "Materialising Careers: The Role of Artefacts in Career Making".

## / Presentation abstract

Commissioned Art in the public space is a phenomenon in which many and diverse types of actors (artists, commissioners, mediators, curators, and local communities) and many and diverse tasks (i.e. artistic advice and guidance, invitation of the artist, financing, project management, licensing, ...) are involved. Mediators can support not only the artist but also the commissioner(s) throughout this complex process. Previous research commissioned by the Department of Culture of the Flemish Government pointed out that the field of Commissioned Art needs a deeper insight into the role of mediators. There are too few qualified mediators, while the number of these projects is increasing. Also, the current mediators belong to the white middle class group of society and thus do not represent the diversity of actors they have to work with nor the society they have to intervene in. Further, many of the mediators address a complex issue as too simple (they simplify complexity in formulas for mediating) or they get discouraged by the complexity and withdraw from these processes. The aim of this research is to investigate the role and practices of the mediator in arts projects. The study aims to build a theoretical as well as methodological framework for studying mediating practices and aims to provide insights for training/ education, and improve the quality of the careers of mediators.



# ART MEDIATION IN TRANSITION: CAREERS AND TOOLS FOR MEDIATION IN ART PROJECTS DEALING WITH SOCIO- ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

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BY HANNELORE VAN DEN ABEELE

CREACTIVITY STATION - STATION A - ICN  
BUSINESS SCHOOL  
PLACE DE PADOUE - 54000 NANCY