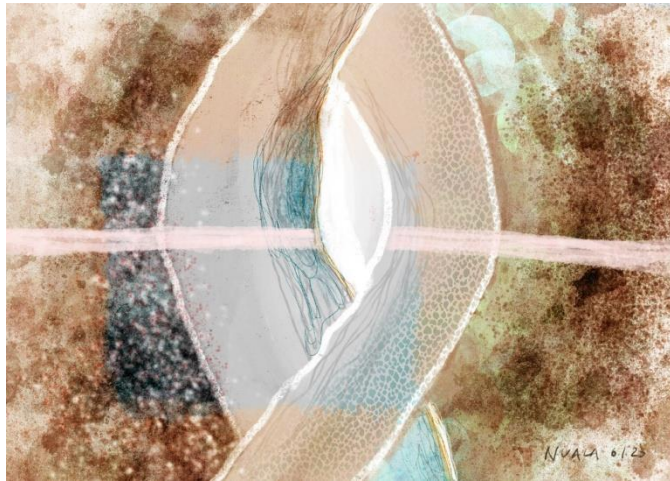


# Art of Management and Organisation Nancy

21-24 August 2024. Total Art: “Arts Nouveaux” for Sustainable Futures

## **An invitation to contribute to the stream: A Working Arts Precinct**

Convenors: Rob Cairns and Nuala Dent



**Image by Nuala Dent**

As a way of apprehending Total Art, this stream aims to foster an expansive atmosphere of mind and mood; that translates into ways for sharing, linking, sense-making and integrating new ideas generated from experiences of the conference.

We invite contributions to the stream: **A Working Arts Precinct**, as part of the 2024 AoMO conference in Nancy – Total Art: “Arts Nouveaux” for Sustainable Futures.

By **working arts precinct** we mean a sequence of forums scheduled at points throughout the conference in which you are invited to contribute evolving experiences of the conference via one of two options:

1. **Aesthetically**, using a chosen art form. Art forms may be graphic, poetic, performance or installation to name but some. (For example, an exhibition with illustrations of poignant moments in the conference by one or several illustrators).

**OR**

2. **By facilitation** – providing and deploying your methodology in the room with participants, to tease out evolving experiences of the conference as it unfolds.

Each forum will finish with a group reflection to capture insights and emerging themes.

The role of stream convenors is curatorial. By this we mean, to hold the space and overall process, facilitate reflection and ensure that feelings and perceptions as part of an **aesthetic attitude** are privileged over, but not exclusive of, cognitive processes.

The stream emphasises an **aesthetic attitude**, by which we mean apprehending a subject in its context as a thing-in-itself. This may be achieved through what Keats called “negative capability”; that is, “being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason” (Letters of John Keats to his Family and Friends; edited by Sidney Colvin, Macmillan and Co. 1891; page 48).

While germane to various art forms, we see this attitude as an essential quality of effective management and leadership, enabling one to get closer to the reality of situations, and requiring resistance to pressures to always have solutions at the ready.

John Olsen, an Australian artist, wrote about his approach to painting the landscape-as-a-whole in this way:

I wanted to really come to terms with the experience of a total landscape. Not like there is the foreground, there is the middle distance and there is the horizon. I wanted that overall feeling of travelling over the landscape. There you can see the dry creek beds, the nervous system. Then you begin to somehow see the wholeness, the essential untidiness.

~ <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/collection/artists/olsen-john>

The quote captures the essence of this stream which seeks to feel into all parts of the conference. As Wordsworth [in ... Tintern Abbey] pitched it: “We see into the life of things”. As haiku one could say:

*In many forms, art  
Frames the flux of feelings, to  
Show the life in things*

Rob Cairns

The stream begins with an introduction by its convenors in an opening plenary about its purpose. Following the various offerings, the stream will close with a plenary reflection, bringing together our many conference experiences. It uses the Japanese concept of ‘Yugen’ which perceives a subject in terms of its whole life cycle in its context – an expression of Total Art. This approach will enable perspectives on the trajectory of AoMO (past, present and future) to be expressed, and provide a space for integrating emergent possibilities into expressions of new futures.

We invite open presentations and engaging events that are exploratory in nature, and that enable the creative expression of experience. As such, incompleteness / works-in-progress and improvisation will be highly valued.

For option 1 (above), presentations are likely to be dependent on experiences gained during the conference. Therefore it will be helpful to us for your submission to specify your art form, your way of collecting, distilling and depicting experiences, and perhaps provide a hypothetical example. You might work alone, or huddle with others prior to and / or during the conference for a joint offering.

Please submit a 750-word proposal, as a Word.doc, wherever possible, in size 12 font, Times Roman. Proposals are due by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 and should be sent to [aomo2024nancy@gmail.com](mailto:aomo2024nancy@gmail.com), copying in [rbcairns@bigpond.com](mailto:rbcairns@bigpond.com) and [nuala@drawingon.au](mailto:nuala@drawingon.au).

We are happy to engage in discussion(s) about your proposed contribution and how it engages with the concepts outlined above.

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AoMO 20224 stream: A Working Arts Precinct