



The Aesthesis Project: Art and Knowledge in Management and Organizational Life

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During the early Renaissance, European culture began to change through a dynamic knowledge-acquisition process. This process was later defined in terms of 'humanism', a premise of which held that the subjective human imagination possesses the resources to solve objective problems in the material world. The key lay in the imagination being put to work in the very *process* of knowledge acquisition. For artists, starting with Alberti, Leonardo, and Bramante, this involved a transformation from craftsmen into engineers and scientists as well as professional businessmen. The artist's inner resources for expressive creativity, innovation, and vision, were the dynamo not simply of culture but of an emerging modern science. Artistic techniques in anatomical drawing, spatial representation, empirical observation, chemistry and materials development, were bound up with a renewed interest in mathematics, geometry, and physics and a broader investigation of the material world. Renaissance art was the alliance of the scientific mind and artistic creativity – together forging tools with which to investigate our environment, both offering knowledge of 'reality'.

This track invites papers that explore the Renaissance mind in *contemporary* management and organizational life. It calls for an exploration of knowledge-acquisition where expressive subjectivity and scientific objectivity find a dynamic alliance. The Renaissance was precisely the re-birth of an ancient semantic, where theory or scientific rationality (the 'thesis') has not been severed from subjective experience (the 'aes'.....). The editors of the new journal *Aesthesis* thus invite any form of exploration of the following:

- Art as a research tool in organisational contexts
- Art as a knowledge acquisition process
- The 'artistic' use of scientific knowledge in management and organizational life
- Art as a means of revealing the aesthetic knowledge and dynamics of organizations
- The uses of artistic activity in transforming an organization's knowledge of itself

Keywords: Art, investigation, knowledge, transformation.