A longitudinal study on professional development in visual arts

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND
- Professional development poses intraindividual challenges (e.g., developing an artistic profile) as well as interindividual challenges (e.g., network extension) to visual artists.
- Budding artists have to develop a profile and think carefully about subject, composition and genre regarding their artworks.
- Therefore, gaining autonomy in decision making was identified as a supporting factor of professional development (Sawatsky et al., 2020).
- To expand their credibility in public and to achieve social recognition, artists have to take part in exhibitions and spread their names in public (Baldin & Bille, 2021).
- Artists are said to be professional, if they can sell their art regularly and show high levels of competence above the average (Mieg & Evetts, 2018).

MAIN RESEARCH AIDS
- Portray changes of the two variables autonomy in decision making and credibility in public.
- Examine how beginning artists develop professionally by gaining autonomy in decision making and earning credibility in public and point out critical incidents.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
(1) Which change processes of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public do artists notice during their professional developments and what changes do they find particularly relevant?
(2) Which factors influence the changes of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public in the course of the artists’ professional developments?

METHODS
- Instruments:
  - Questionnaire: We will implement a questionnaire to capture changes of individual perceptions of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public.
  - Qualitative Interviews: We will conduct qualitative interviews to examine critical incidents and influencing factors of change processes of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public.
  - Observations: We will observe artists during their creation processes and exhibitions to identify critical incidents more precisely. Observation findings will be considered during the interviews.
- Analyses:
  - Questionnaire: descriptive evaluation (average, means, standard deviations), regression analyses
  - Interviews & Observations: qualitative content analysis

EXPECTED RESULTS
- Increase of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public in the course of professional developments
- Obtaining a better understanding of professional development in visual arts by analyzing the changes of autonomy in decision making and credibility in public
- Working out decisive factors of becoming a professional artist

REFERENCES