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Expanded Painting: Methodological Frameworks and Artistic Research

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Introduction

The field of expanded painting encompasses a dynamic intersection of artistic practice, research, and pedagogy. This dataset explores the diverse methodologies employed in artistic research, specifically within the realm of expanded painting as both an academic discipline and a creative practice. By integrating transdisciplinary perspectives, this work combines approaches from artistic research, arts-based research, and scientific inquiry to present a comprehensive overview of methodological frameworks.

This project builds upon methodologies applied in my teaching practice at the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Barcelona, particularly within the courses Painting 1 and Cultural Politics (Polítiques Artístiques i Culturals. Propietat Intel·lectual). These courses serve as platforms for fostering critical thinking and collaborative exploration, enabling students to connect traditional techniques with contemporary challenges. Assignments are designed to encourage students to develop research-driven projects that engage with cultural, social, and theoretical dimensions while embracing innovative approaches to painting.

The dataset presented here offers an Open Educational Resource (OER) aimed at supporting artistic education and serving as a reference for educators and researchers in the arts. It is rooted in the exploration of methodological tools that promote innovation within the field of expanded painting. By sharing these insights, I seek to inspire new dialogues in artistic research and to contribute to the evolution of teaching methodologies and artistic practices.

This expanded framework emphasizes the adaptability of methodologies to evolving artistic and educational contexts. By presenting both qualitative and quantitative approaches, this work underscores the importance of cross-disciplinary exploration as a foundation for innovation and critical inquiry in the arts.

[1] This work would not have been possible without the valuable contributions of the students from the Painting course during the 2022–23 academic year, who actively engaged in a range of practical exercises and research proposals. Their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment were instrumental in shaping this methodological proposal. The outcomes of this collaboration will continue to evolve with students from the Creation Workshop III course in future academic years.

Methodology	Definition	Application in Artistic Research	Key Features	Expanded Painting Perspective
Qualitative Research	Involves collecting non-numerical data to understand concepts, opinions, or experiences.	Includes interviews, focus groups, and participant observation to capture subjective narratives and cultural dynamics.	Subjectivity, depth, and contextual understanding.	Integrates deeply into artistic practices, allowing for the representation of cultural and social phenomena through creative means.
Arts-Based Research (ABR)	Combines artistic practice and research methodologies to explore human experiences.	Utilizes visual arts, performances, and creative outputs as tools for inquiry and representation.	Interdisciplinary, innovative, and audience-engaging.	ABR is key in expanded painting, offering ways to merge research insights with artistic outputs, creating a bridge between academia and practice.
Ethnographic Methods	Focuses on immersive observation and participation to understand social and cultural contexts.	Adapts to artistic research through community-based projects and reflexive practices, documenting human interaction and environment.	Reflexivity, insider-outsider dynamics, and long-term engagement.	Ethnography informs painting by embedding social narratives, allowing the artist to become both observer and participant, creating culturally rich works.
Quantitative Research	Involves numerical data collection and statistical analysis to understand patterns and correlations.	Includes market analysis, pricing studies, and audience measurement in the art world.	Objectivity, replicability, and statistical significance.	Supports expanded painting by contextualizing artworks in economic and market-driven frameworks, providing data for socio-economic commentary.
Mixed-Methods	Combines qualitative and quantitative techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of a research question.	Enables triangulation of data in artistic research, enhancing depth and reliability.	Holistic, adaptable, and multifaceted approach.	Allows expanded painting to incorporate both narrative and statistical elements, bridging subjective and objective dimensions of artistic interpretation.
Practice-Based Research	Centers on creative practice as the primary method of investigation.	Focuses on the production process and reflective analysis, emphasizing the role of the artist-researcher.	Experiential, iterative, and practice-led.	Core to expanded painting, emphasizing the process and evolution of artwork as a form of inquiry.

Comparative Methods	Involves cross-cultural and interdisciplinary comparisons to identify universal and unique aspects of a phenomenon.	Applied in art to contrast styles, themes, or market dynamics across regions or periods.	Comparative, cross-disciplinary, and integrative.	Enriches expanded painting by contextualizing artistic practices within global and historical frameworks, fostering innovation through comparative analysis.
Ethnographic Research	Immersive, field-based research aiming to understand cultural and social dynamics from within.	Explores artist communities, studio cultures, and audience engagement in real-life settings.	Context-sensitive, participatory, and deeply observational.	Highlights how expanded painting functions within specific cultural and social frameworks, offering insights into collective creative practices.
Data Visualisation	The transformation of complex data sets into visual formats to enhance understanding and accessibility.	Represents the connections, patterns, and networks in art ecosystems, such as artist-gallery relationships or art fair dynamics.	Informative, aesthetic, and interpretative.	Provides expanded painting with innovative approaches to visual storytelling, integrating data as an artistic medium.
Archival Research	Investigating historical records to uncover past narratives and practices.	Analyses the documentation of past art exhibitions or the evolution of specific techniques, informing contemporary practices.	Historical, rigorous, and detail-oriented.	Reinforces expanded painting's continuity by drawing connections between historical methodologies and present-day innovations.
Technological Experimentation	Using emerging technologies to push boundaries in research and artistic creation.	Includes VR painting, digital layering techniques, or blockchain applications in artistic production.	Innovative, exploratory, and interdisciplinary.	Explores the intersection of expanded painting and technological advancement, reflecting the integration of new tools into traditional art forms.
Narrative Inquiry	A method that examines personal and collective stories as data to understand lived experiences.	Analyses autobiographical or collective narratives within artistic communities, including the role of storytelling in expanded painting.	Contextual, reflective, and interpretative.	Highlights how expanded painting captures personal and collective histories through visual storytelling, integrating diverse cultural narratives.

Art-Based Research (ABR)	Incorporates art-making as part of the research process to gain unique insights and communicate findings.	Utilises painting as a mode of inquiry and representation, connecting practice-based exploration with theoretical discourse.	Reflective, multimodal, and accessible to diverse audiences.	Positions expanded painting as both a tool for discovery and a medium for research dissemination, strengthening the connection between creation and inquiry.
Experimental Design	The process of testing hypotheses under controlled or semi-controlled conditions to explore cause-and-effect relationships.	Investigates how material choices, spatial configurations, or audience engagement affect artistic outcomes in expanded painting.	Controlled, iterative, and hypothesis-driven.	Enhances the analytical understanding of expanded painting by exploring the interactions between materials, contexts, and audience reception.
Practice-Based Research	Research where artistic practice itself generates insights, outcomes, and scholarly contributions.	Focuses on how expanded painting challenges traditional boundaries through innovative materials, spaces, or conceptual frameworks.	Iterative, exploratory, and inherently creative.	Central to expanded painting, showcasing the transformative potential of practice as both research and creation, bridging the gap between disciplines.
Mixed Methods Research	Combines qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a comprehensive analysis of complex phenomena.	Integrates statistical analysis (e.g., audience engagement metrics) with qualitative insights (e.g., artist interviews) to explore the multifaceted nature of expanded painting.	Flexible, integrative, and holistic.	Explores the interplay of technical, social, and aesthetic aspects in expanded painting, positioning it as a complex cultural phenomenon requiring multidimensional approaches.
Visual Ethnography	Examines cultural practices and social behaviours through visual documentation and analysis.	Analyses visual and spatial practices in painting exhibitions, addressing how expanded painting interacts with audiences and physical environments.	Immersive, culturally sensitive, and visually driven.	Offers an understanding of expanded painting as a cultural artefact that actively shapes and is shaped by its context, embracing its performative and interactive dimensions.
Comparative Analysis	A method of systematically comparing different elements to identify similarities, differences, and patterns.	Compares expanded painting techniques across cultural or historical contexts to uncover evolving narratives, styles, and impacts.	Systematic, analytical, and often transdisciplinary.	Highlights how expanded painting embodies a dialogue between tradition and innovation, fostering cross-

				cultural and interdisciplinary exploration.
Philosophical Inquiry	Explores fundamental questions of meaning, existence, and ethics, often using logical analysis and critical thinking.	Investigates the philosophical implications of expanded painting, such as its role in redefining artistic boundaries and its ethical dimensions in representing socio-political realities.	Abstract, critical, and deeply conceptual.	Positions expanded painting as a reflective practice that engages with critical questions about art, identity, and society, extending its relevance beyond traditional aesthetics.