

What Are We Talking About When We Talk About Social Responsibility in Shirin Art Gallery?

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to identify the Social Responsibility Dimensions among artists. The research is based on Delphi Method plus an empowerment workshop, incorporating panelists from the Shirin Art Gallery and academia. The Delphi survey is supplemented with findings from a preliminary study, combining expert interviews (N = 10) and a literature review.

Based on the results from analysis, the paper presents two possible dimensions: Economic and Environmental which improve the understanding of important issues that we believe would be valuable for the future studies and helps the artists not only to find responsibilities relevant to their works but also to add strength to these affairs.

Introduction

Constantly increasing environmental problems has led the artists worldwide to adopt various methods for achieving the goal of art creation. However, the significance of these methods in the production of arts is not clearly understood by the artists, especially in developing economies such as Iran. Responsibility issues were adopted to help artists make adjustments to the art underpinning their works. While academia and the media make liberal use of the term “Responsibility”, they rarely align themselves to foundational conceptualization.

To aesthetically derive a comprehensive conceptualization, Firstly, the importance of responsibility issue was determined, secondly different influential aspects have been selected by reviewing the literature. Finally, a survey has been conducted receiving a response from internally renowned experts. Hence, this study aims to identify the major aspects presented as qualitative information; however, each participant is asked to indicate the importance of issues based on their experience.

Method

This qualitative-descriptive study was carried out in two stages with aims of investigating the importance of Social Responsibility in Arts beside a workshop for Artist Empowerment. First, the importance of responsibility was determined. Then, responsibilities opinions of experts were identified and screened using a systematic review of references. All results were analyzed using Excel software.

Artists from Shirin Art Gallery with an opening exhibition were invited to participate as part of the expert panel. Delphi panelists completed survey round. A second panel phone line conference was then completed with results of the discussion confirmed in a first survey round.

Conclusion

This study is one of the first investigations of social responsibility of Artists tending to have exhibition in Iran. The panel differentiated between activities that could be performed by experienced artists working and those that would require further training.

The empirical case study is presented to demonstrate the applicability of the proposed framework. Among, the 10 opening art exhibitions of artists since the beginning, the overall result of the study shows that the most important responsibility dimensions among artists were ‘Economic’ and ‘Environmental’.

Recent research suggests that a more granulated conceptualization of responsibility is required. Therefore, the implementation of management strategies to increase the responsible works of artists is recommended. The most important barriers are identified as insufficient funds for research and a lack of staff capability for data collection and analysis.

References

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