

COLLECTIVITY

Dutch Collective / SHIFFT

As the current Dutch Collective, our core approach is more autonomous; we do not work together physically on the floor during this residencies. Instead, our exchange is based on opening up our individual practices. We come from different perspectives and opinions, and our form of collectiveness is rooted in mutual exposure rather than direct collaboration.

Rather than feeling obligated to provide feedback on each other's work, we recognize that our relationship is one of inspiration rather than critique. We can choose to share and receive feedback when desired, but it is not an expectation. This open and respectful approach defines how we engage in collective feedback and decision-making—it is about understanding our relation to each other, rather than imposing external influence.

Collective Decision-Making Process

Rather than treating feedback as rigid standards, we approached it as a open dialogue.

Hierarchy in Feedback

We questioned whether feedback should be weighted equally or if a hierarchy should be established in its evaluation.

Why establish a hierarchy?

- It allows for prioritization, ensuring the work remains cohesive.
- Not all feedback holds the same depth; experience and alignment with the project's vision matter.
- Too much equal influence can lead to dilution rather than refinement.

Why avoid hierarchy?

- Insightful contributions often come from unexpected sources.
- A non-hierarchical approach nurtures an open, evolving process.
- When all voices are valued equally, it fosters a sense of true collaboration rather than top-down decision-making.
- It allows individuals to stay more autonomous in how they receive and process feedback, keeping their core artistic vision intact.

Ultimately, whether a hierarchy is beneficial depends on the nature of the project: Is it a deeply personal work requiring a singular vision, or is it a collective creation where open exploration is essential?

Artistic Decision-Making: Structure vs. Fluidity

Art often thrives under the guidance of a strong creative lead who curates and filters input when working together in a collective. Total collectivity can sometimes lead to compromise rather than clarity. Collective decision-making harmonizes with autonomy when feedback strengthens rather than overrides an artist's intuition or autonomy. It creates tension when external voices dilute the original essence of the work.

The fundamental question becomes: **How does collaboration influence autonomy?** The more we engage in collective processes, the less individually autonomous we become. This is not inherently negative; rather, it is a choice that must be made consciously based on context and intention. Some works demand absolute creative control, while others flourish through shared authorship.

This residency has reinforced that collective decision-making is not a singular model but a spectrum. The balance between hierarchy and equality, structure and fluidity, isn't a problem to fix but something to work with—shaping how we create and connect. It's about understanding what you need, how you relate to others, and how you move within this process