

# Integrating the arts and mixed methods research approaches

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IIQM-MMIRA Webinar Series

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# Acknowledgements

**INSPIRING  
SOUTH  
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 **CIHR  
IRSC** | Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Instituts de recherche  
en santé du Canada

**G-TRAC Resthaven**

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National Health and Medical Research Council



Nancy Gerber, PhD, ATR-BC

**Mixed Methods Research &  
Arts-Based Research:  
Theoretical Considerations**

CRE in Frailty & Healthy Aging  
Petra Szabo & Potential Kinetics  
Prof Tony Onwuegbuzie  
Prof Alison Kitson  
Prof Alex Clark  
John Blines  
MMIRA & IIQM

# Outline

**I. Gaining common ground:** Key concepts & philosophical intersections of the arts & MMR

**II. State of the science:** An overview of how the arts & MMR are currently being integrated

**III. The arts-MMR integration continuum:** Considering different points and extents of intersection

**IV. Examples of arts-MMR Integration:** What does/can arts-MMR integration look like?

**V. Considerations for future practice:** Practicalities, quality etc.

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Key Motivations & Observations

- Trend towards methodological pluralism
  - Growing popularity of MMR
  - Within paradigm mixing
  - Types of typologies & alternatives
  - Hinges on pragmatism & epistemological pluralism
- Trend towards using arts-in-research for epistemic (and less commonly, ontological) reasons
- Similar course of history between arts-based & MMR
  - Use extends beyond recognition as research paradigm


***\*Identify the actualities and potentials of an arts-MMR intersection\****

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Key Propositions

- Meaningful, impactful and “accurate” research is the aim
- “The arts” are not an elitist niche, but an integral aspect of being, (thinking), & culture
- Mixed methods research (MMR) & arts share inherent similarities
- All methods provide unique ways to understand, represent & communicate
- Considerations are practical, as well as epistemological & ontological

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Representation & Constructed Practices

## balance

*/'bal(ə)ns/* 

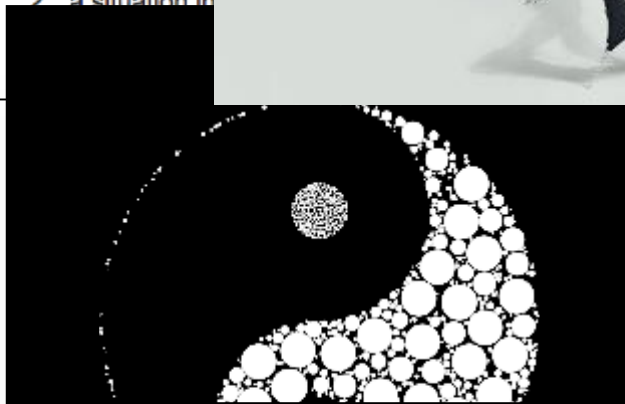
*noun*

1. an even distribution of weight  
"she lost her balance"  
*synonyms:* stability, equilibrium
2. a situation in which two or more things are equal in weight or value



remain upright and steady

IIIG (n = 20)			ICG (n = 14)		
Before	After BEEP	After Test- BEEP	ICG 1:2	After BEEP	ICG 2:2
M	p	n	M	p	M
36.5	51.0				
38.5	49.5				
4.1	14.0				



36.5	51.0
38.5	49.5
4.1	14.0



descriptions of various unpleasant events several times a day. I did, but I got dizzy and unsteady. The interviewees attempt to find a balance between the medication associated with the medication.

and take them three times a day. The medications made the fall risk increased.

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Definitions

## **Mixed-Methods Research**

- Qual (narrative) + Quant (numerical)
- Integrated for *added value*
- 1+1=3 Integration challenge (Fetters & Freshwater, 2015)

## **Arts-Informed Research**

- Situated within qualitative paradigm
- Informed by the arts in any form (Knowles & Cole, 2008)

## **Arts-Based Research**

- Arts are centrally positioned
- Systematic use of arts as a means of inquiry
- Results in both a practice & a product  
(Barone & Eisner, 2012, Leavy, 2015; McNiff, 2008)

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Congruence

Debating and integrating paradoxical forms of knowledge—as in dialectical reasoning—is a fundamental aspect of human philosophical history and scientific inquiry (Johnson & Gray, 2010).

MMR and arts-based approaches embrace these epistemological foundations and methodological challenges.

These foundational similarities create a productive and intuitive bedrock for research integration

(Archibald & Gerber, 2018)



# I. Gaining Common Ground: Philosophical Parallels

Mixed methods way of thinking: dialogic value & commitment to engaging with different ways of seeing, hearing, understanding (Greene, 2007)

Dialectical Stance: Engage with divergence & dissonance to generate puzzles and paradoxes leading to new understandings & insights (Greene, 2007)

Dialectic between forms of reasoning & approaches to research, types of data, representation: Similar between MMR & ABR, reflecting dialectical pluralism

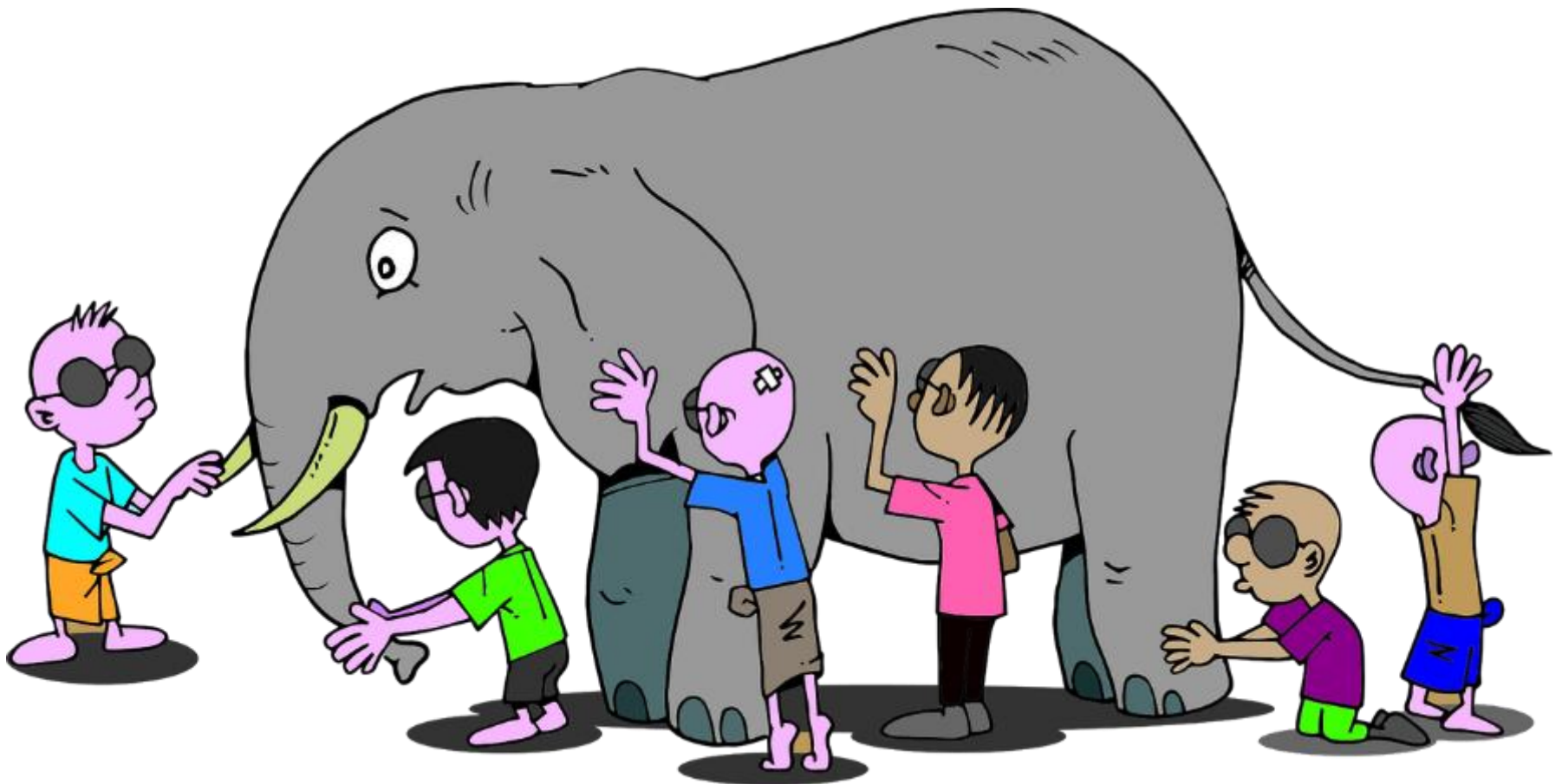
(Taken from Archibald & Gerber, 2018)

# I. Gaining Common Ground: Philosophical Parallels [ABR]

- Pluralistic & constructivist
- Intersubjective ontology
- Aesthetic, embodied / sensory knowledge
- Iterative & immersive modes of investigation
- Reflective, personal (& relational)

(Barone & Eisner, 2012; Archibald & Gerber, 2018; Leavy, 2015)

# I. Gaining Common Ground: The “whole picture” challenge



# I. Gaining Common Ground: The “whole picture” challenge







Inaugural Special Issue

**manifesto**  
man·i·fes·to \ ,ma-nə-'fes-(,)tō  
*noun*  
a written statement declaring publicly the intentions,  
motives, or views of its issuer.

## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIPLE RESEARCH APPROACHES, 2018  
VOL. 10, NO. 1, 342–355  
<https://doi.org/10.29034/ijmra.v10n1a23>



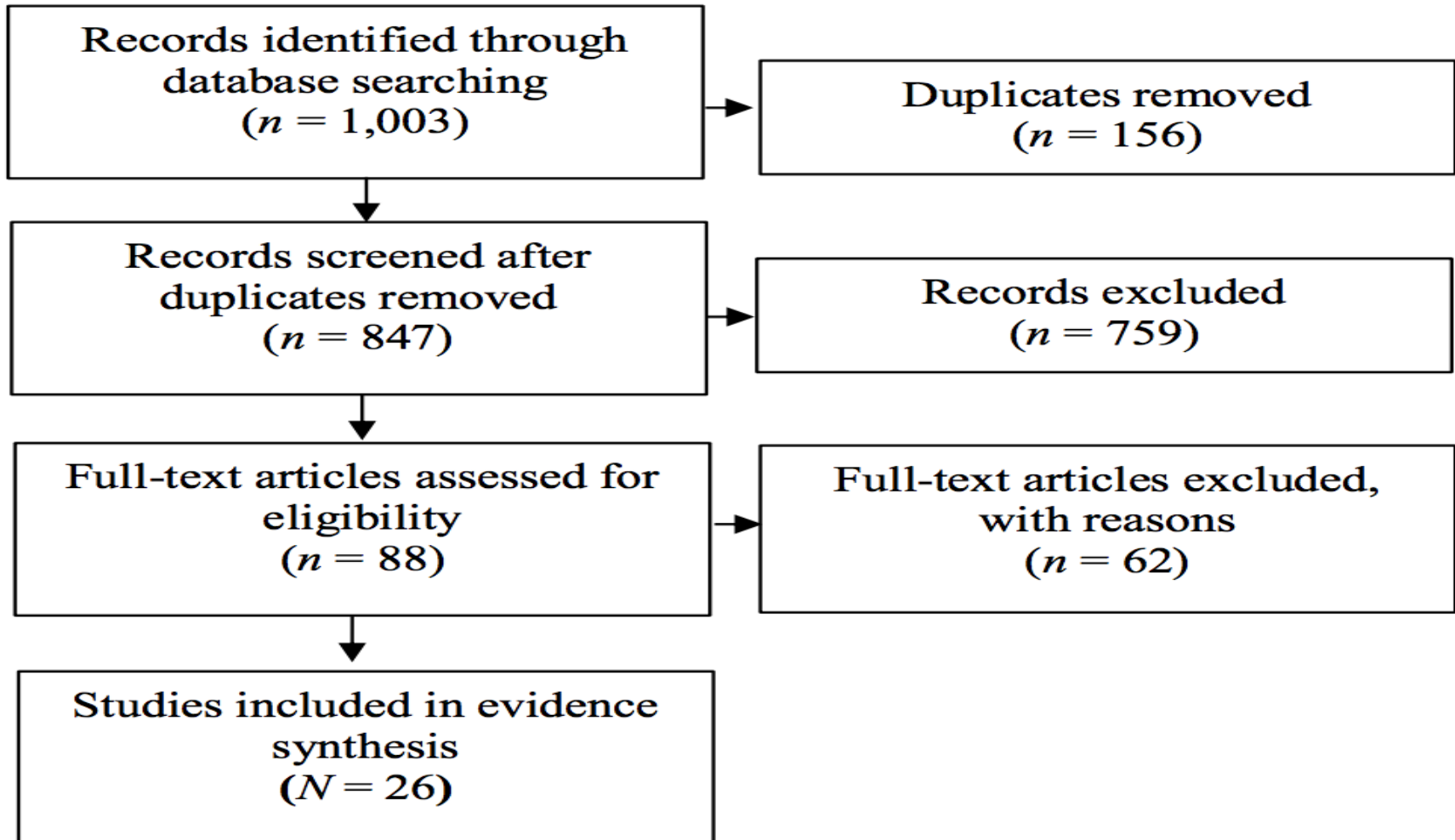
Dialectical Publishing

### Integrating the Arts and Mixed Methods Research: A Review and a Way Forward

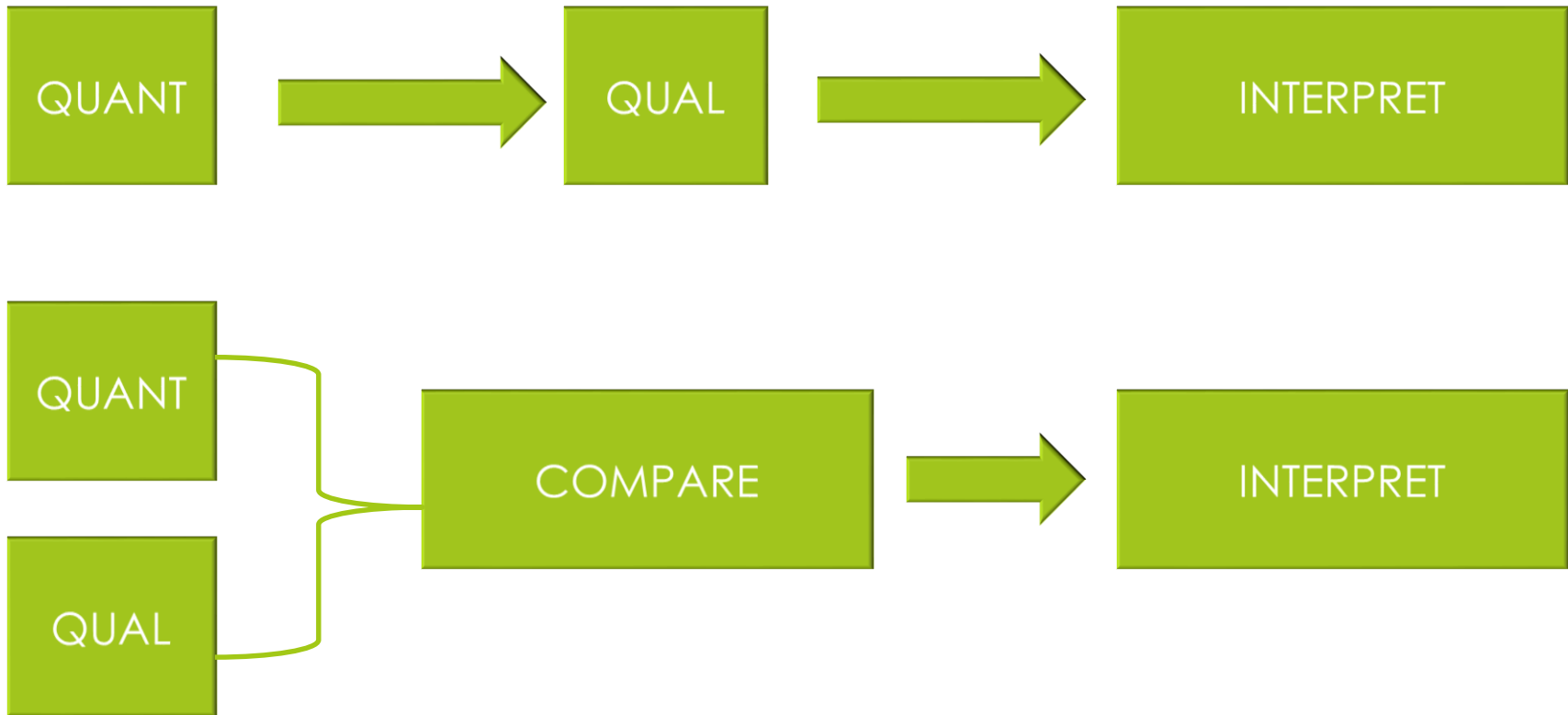
Mandy M. Archibald

Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia

## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: Review Methods



## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: Predominant MMR Designs





## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: Arts-MMR Intersections

### Study of arts' **impact**

Focus: evaluation

### Study of art **processes** and **engagement**

Focus: reflection on meaning construction

### **Arts-informed** research

Art influences but is not central to inquiry

### **Arts-based** research

Artistic process is central to inquiry

## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: How are the Arts Used?



26%



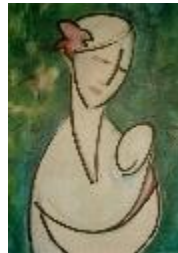
63%

Combination: 11%

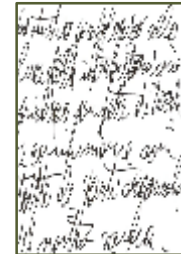
## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: What artistic forms are used?



93%



&



= 29%



7%

## II. State of the Science of Arts-MMR: Justifications for use

Greene et al. (1989)

**EXPANSION:** extend the breadth & range of inquiry by using different methods for different inquiry components

**COMPLEMENTARITY:** elaboration, enhancement, illustration, clarification

**TRIANGULATION:** convergence, corroboration, correspondence of results

**DEVELOPMENT:** results from one method help develop/ inform the other method

**INITIATION:** discovering paradox & contradiction, new perspectives, recasting questions or results

# Arts-MMR Justifications- Bedrock for Practice

## ***Transformative***

Seeks to disrupt assumptions and entrenched perspectives reenacted and perpetuated by research practices.

## ***Constructivist decoding***

Seeks to decipher which messages are impacted by dominant influences and research practices (e.g., social norms), and which are critically absent throughout integration

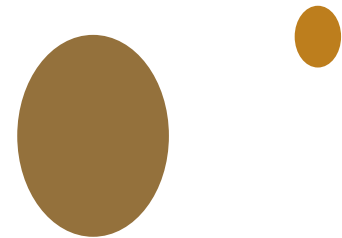
*(Archibald, 2018)*

*"Research that combines arts research methodology with methods positioned in an alternative paradigm within a single study or program of study." (Archibald, 2018).*



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## Arts-MMR Definition



# State of the Science: Exploring an Arts-MMR Methodological Intersection

*Article*

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## **Arts and Mixed Methods Research: An Innovative Methodological Merger**

**Mandy M. Archibald<sup>1</sup> and Nancy Gerber<sup>2</sup>**

American Behavioral Scientist

2018, Vol. 62(7) 956–977

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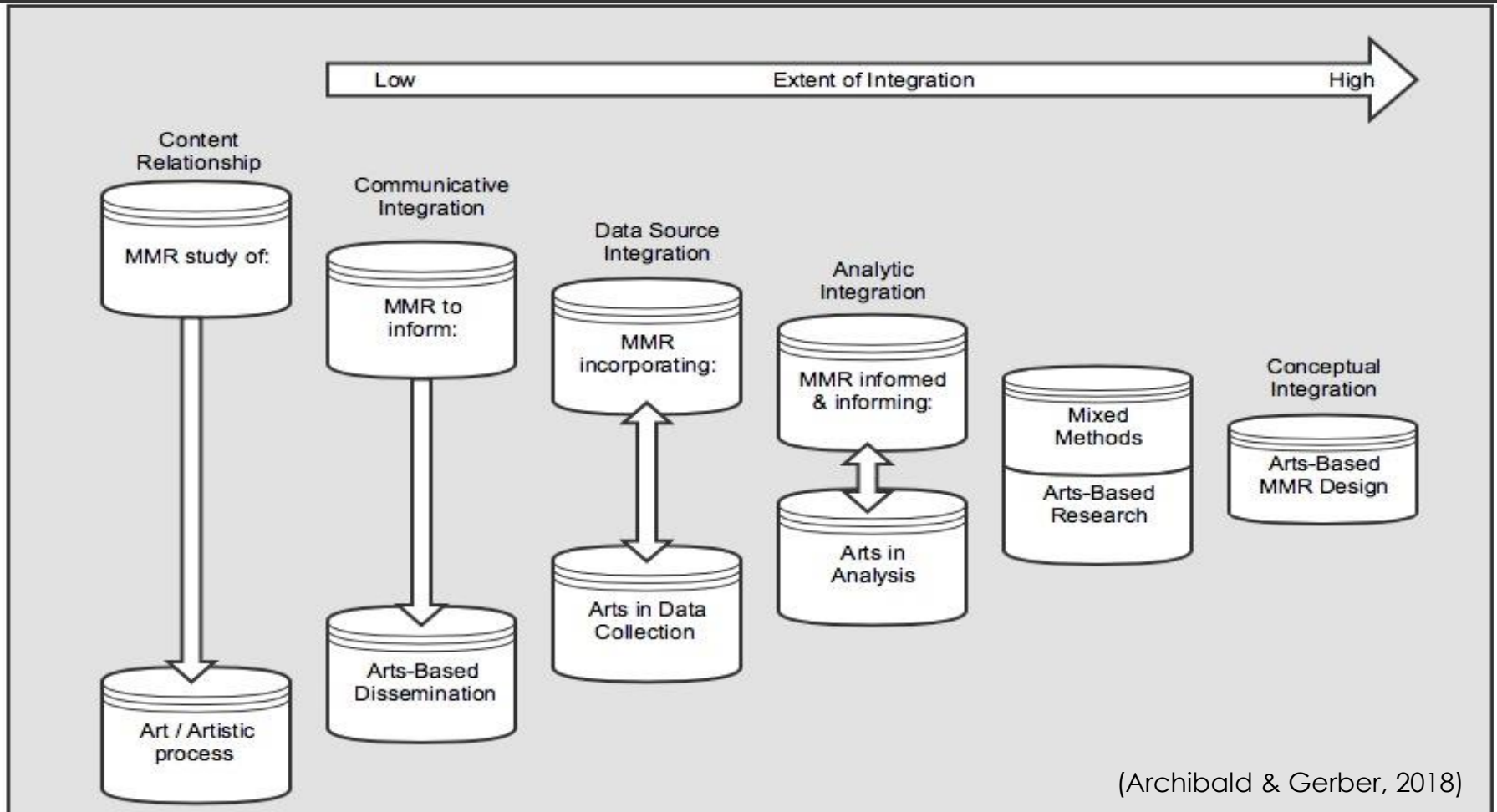
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DOI: 10.1177/0002764218772672

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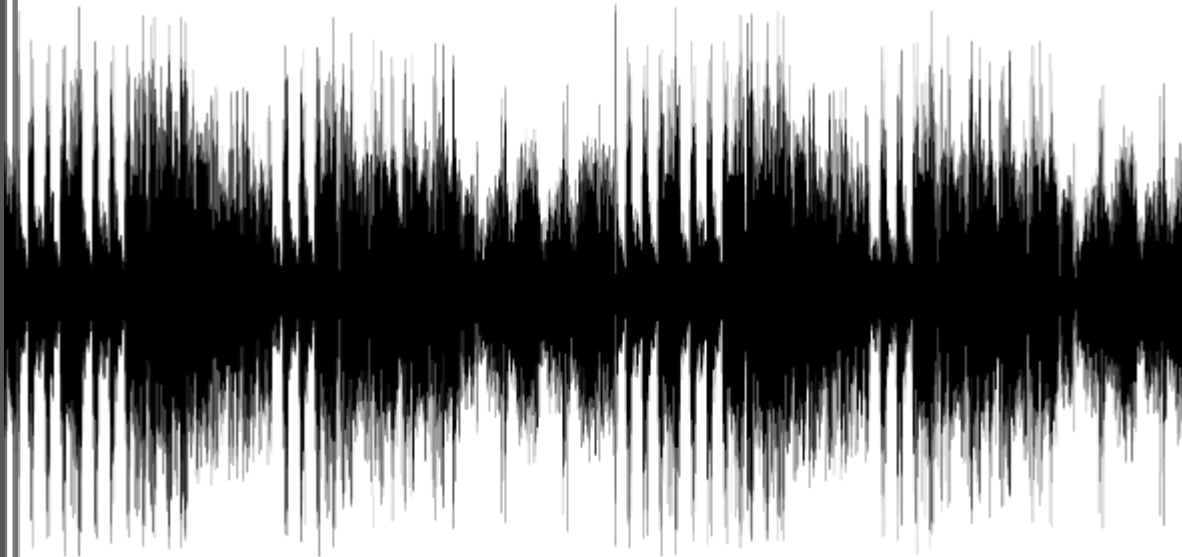
# III. Arts-MMR Integration Continuum



(Archibald & Gerber, 2018)

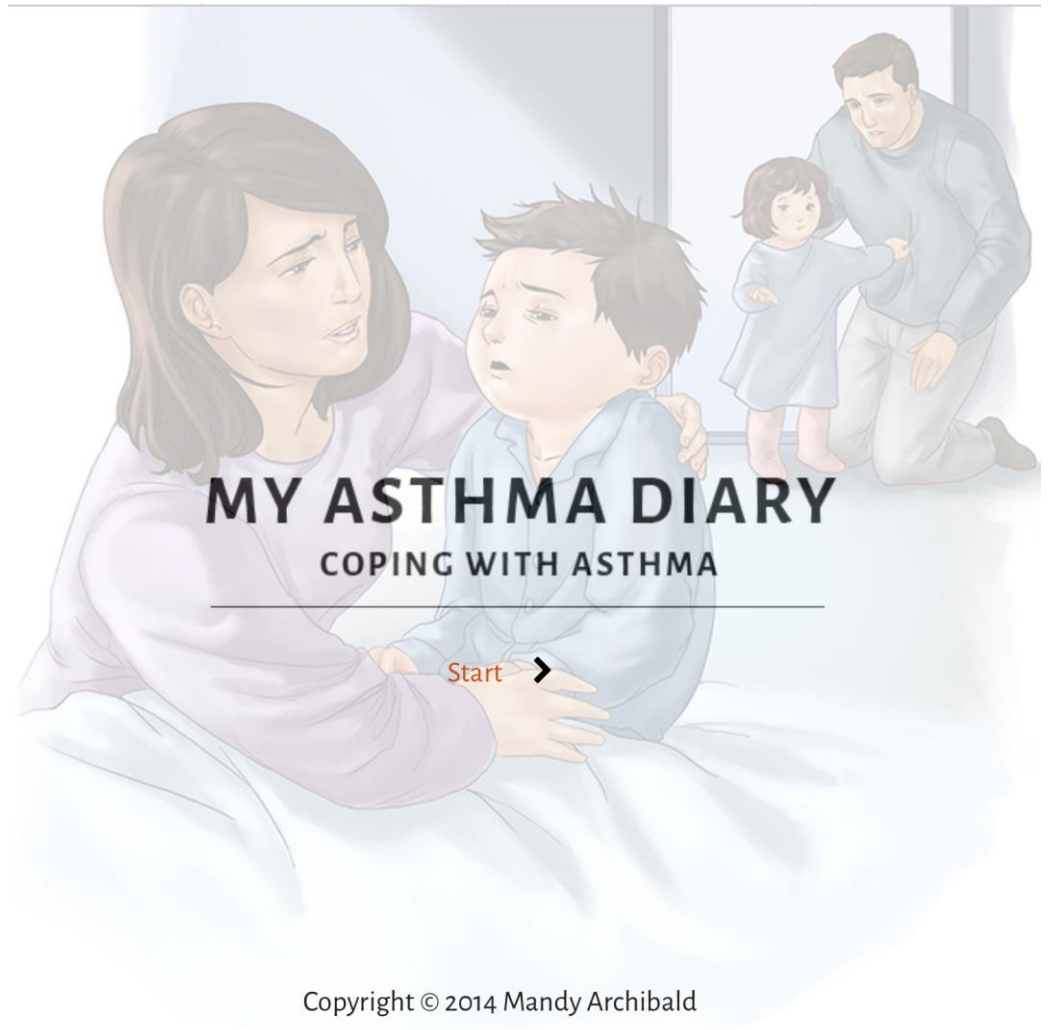


# IV. Exemplars: Arts-MMR



# IV. Exemplars: Arts Based Dissemination

Communicative  
Integration



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*July 1*

What an amazing day! Tahir and I took the kids to the Canada Day parade. We walked around for hours and then joined some neighbours for a barbeque. The kids had a blast! It was great to see.

At first, I was worried all the excitement and activity would be too much for Sammy, but he was great! In fact, it's been weeks since his last asthma attack.

Tahir hopes Sammy is outgrowing it. I suspect it has more to do with the changes we made at home. Either way, it's been a welcome break.



## Will my child grow-out of asthma?

Asthma is a life-long (chronic) condition with no cure. Sometimes asthma symptoms go away for a period of time—even years. This is called remission. Sometimes these symptoms return during teenage years or early adult life. It is normal for asthma symptoms to get better or worse throughout the year and as your child grows.

Sometimes in children, asthma-like symptoms like wheezing and coughing are not actually asthma but something else, like a lung infection (e.g., bronchiolitis). Conditions like this tend to get better as the child grows older.

There are also many different types of asthma. Asthma symptoms can be mild, moderate, or severe. Some children have symptoms that go away, sometimes for long periods of time (intermittent) while others have persistent asthma.

### Asthma Fact!

In Canada, the number of childhood asthma attacks (flare-ups or exacerbations) is highest in the fall and lowest in the summer.

# IV. Exemplars: Arts Based Dissemination

Communicative  
Integration &  
Analytic Integration

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## IV. Exemplar: Communicative Integration & Analytic Integration



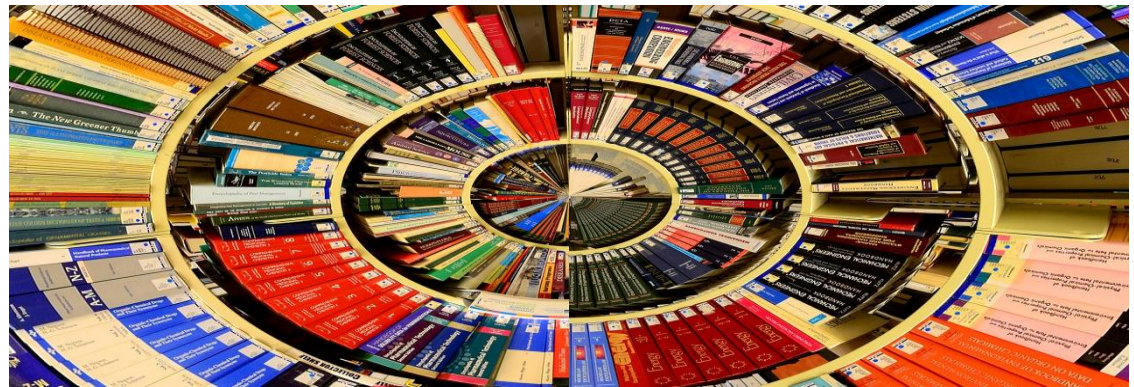
Williams, S., Onwuegbuzie, A., & La Guardia, A., (2018). Poetic Representation: Part II: Voices of Conservative Christian Mothers of Lesbigay Children. *IJMRA*



# IV. Exemplars: Transdisciplinary Centre for Research Excellence in Frailty & Healthy Ageing

**INSPIRING  
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AUSTRALIA**

making science visible



Frailty and  
Healthy Ageing

Centre of Research Excellence



**Australian Government**

**National Health and Medical Research Council**



Canadian Institutes of  
Health Research  
Institut de recherche  
en santé du Canada

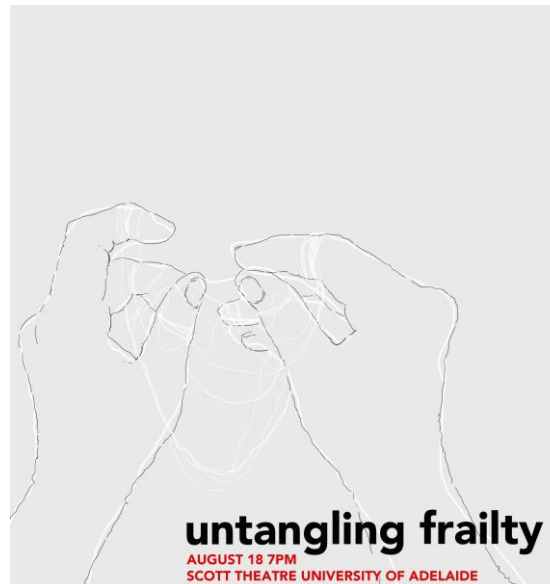
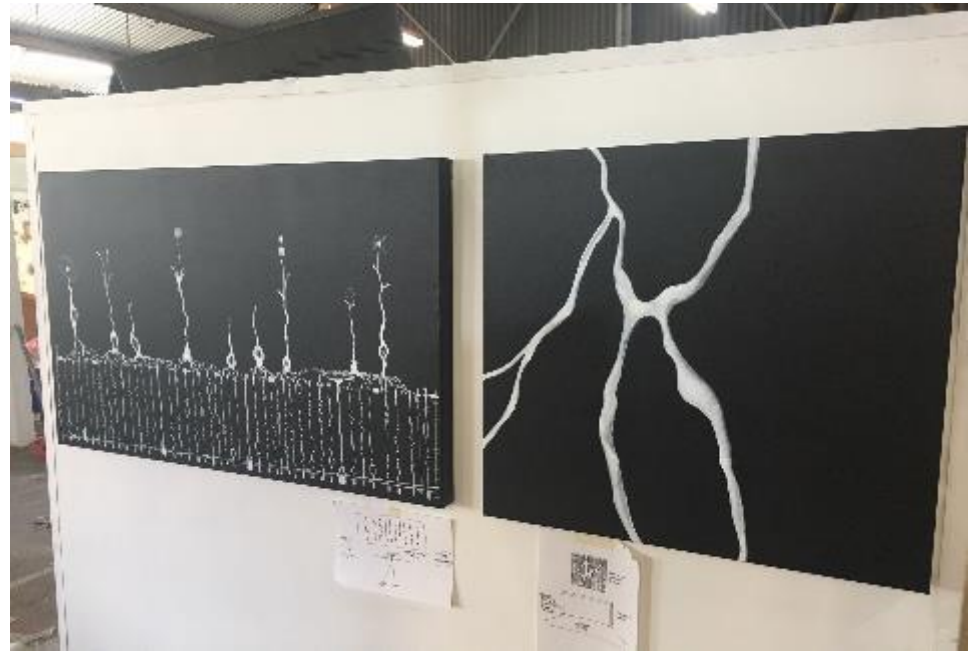
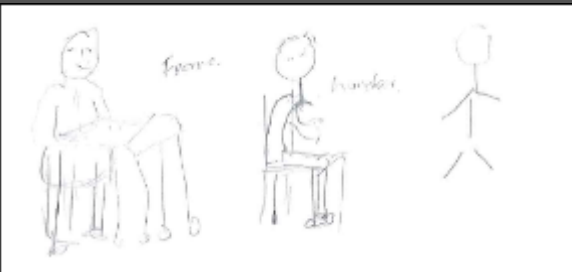
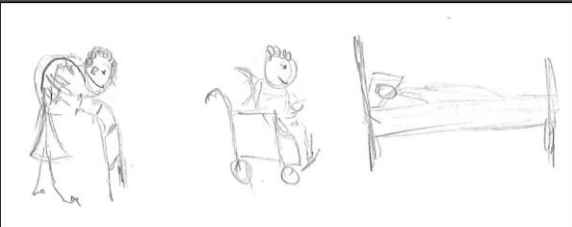
**G-TRAC**



**Resthaven**  
Incorporated

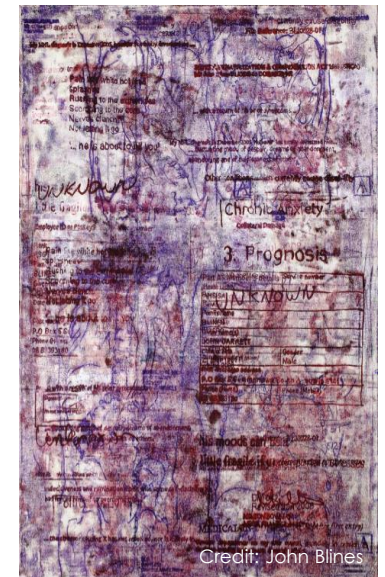
# IV. Exemplars: Arts-MMR

Conceptual  
Integration



**untangling frailty**

AUGUST 18 7PM  
SCOTT THEATRE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE



Credit: John Blines

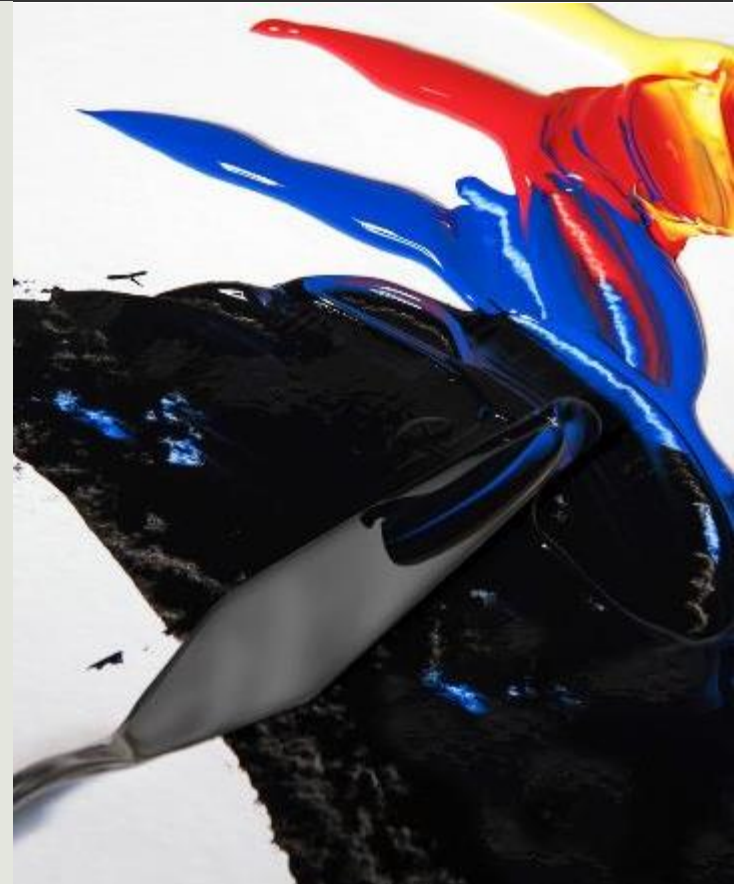
## V. Conclusions & Considerations: Quality & Terminology

Risks of subsuming arts into  
dominant research ideology

Implications for how quality is  
conceptualized, yardsticks for its  
measurement, and which terms are  
used to communicate about  
quality

Bespoke criteria

(Archibald, 2018)

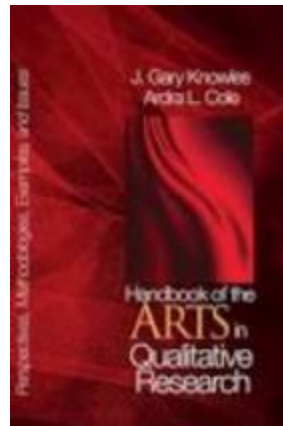
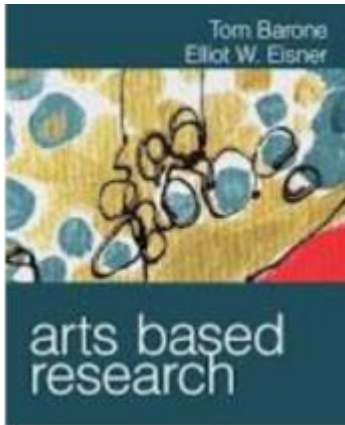




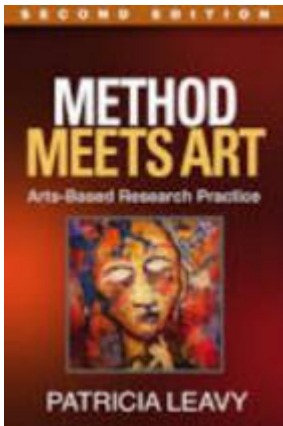
# V. Conclusions & Considerations: Skills, Practicalities & Resources



# V. Conclusions & Considerations: Skills, Practicalities & Resources



International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches



International Journal of Qualitative Methods

## V. Considerations for Future Practice: The challenge of evocation



“The principles of true art  
is not to portray, but to evoke”  
- Jerzy Kosinski

## V. Conclusions & Considerations

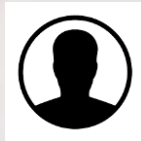
- ▣ Increasing use and integration of arts and MMR
- ▣ Tendency to focus on arts-informed > arts-based inquiry
- ▣ Strong potential for utilizing the arts in concept formation, juxtaposing, exploring divergence
- ▣ Further progress to be made with integration, in reference to the full integration challenge
- ▣ Opportunities for analysis of visual data and visualization methods for integration
- ▣ Considerations for how researcher, participant, and artist generated work could contribute to initiation, triangulation, etc.
- ▣ Wider breadth of art forms (e.g., performance, film) & enhancing focus on ABR



## V. Conclusions & Considerations: Making art.... And making sense



# Thank you



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