Enhancing workplace capacity building through artistic and pedagogical interventions

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My study takes place at the interface of art education and research on well-being at work. It delves critically into the understandings of work, well-being, and the meaning of art in a person's or community’s life. The specific focus is on phenomenological philosophy from the viewpoint of human activity: the reality of work and art. My presentation today will discuss how the utilization of arts to maintain health and well-being at work can also enhance capacity building in working communities. I examine art in the world of work and work in the world of art. At the end of the 1980’s Joseph Beuys had a strong influence on my studies of art in Germany. Beuys worked through multiplicity, with an array of materials (mostly trash) that had both political and personal meaning for him. For him, these multiples meant activism and exploring the actual capacity of art. In the project ArtGoesWork (2010-2013), the workers were participating in art workshops at their own workplaces, during working hours. Art has the potential to make the meaning capacity of building visible by empowering the workplace community in ways that otherwise often stay unnoticed and hidden. Arts and artistic processes in different communities can work as catalysts. They can open up new questions in surprising ways by producing and opening meanings in their given context.