Preface

The first steps towards the realization of this book were taken in 2006, when we decided to set up a workshop in Stockholm around the themes of entrepreneurship and renewal on the art arena. By drawing together a small group of researchers, practicing artists, and representatives of various government agencies, the ambition was to identify new research openings as well as policies for the promotion of new art initiatives. Our intuition at that time was that research had made use to an insufficient extent of the connections between art and entrepreneurship, and that the art arena, at least in the Swedish context, had been running out of steam and seen too few novel and path-breaking art initiatives.

The workshop revealed that much of the initial intuition was correct, and on closing day the intention was formed to turn some of the workshop discussions and findings into a book project. A follow-up workshop was staged at Uppsala University in 2007. That second workshop identified a number of distinct book contributions and refined some of the central underlying themes and ideas. The list of contributors was expanded, and the final results of the entire project can now be presented in this volume. We see the final product as an outcome of fundamental research at its best, starting with an intuition and drawing upon the curiosity and personal interests of the project members to arrive at the final product. As suggested by the individual chapters and the closing summary, the intersection of art and entrepreneurship offers many openings for continued studies – we hope to have captured some of the central issues and that the book will inspire both further research and practical endeavors.

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