



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Annual report 2016

Each month starts with an Italian breakfast, the artists introduces them self to each other and the staff of Circolo and the director gives some vital information for the stay. Followed by a guided tour around the neighbourhood.

We have an open house every month, 'Meet the Artist', where the artists-in-residence presents themselves and their work and afterwards we offer some appetisers and informal talk. The event is held in English and entrance is free.



Circolo participated for the fourth year in the Nordic Film fest Roma in collaboration with the Nordic Embassies in Rome. It is an important event for Circolo Scandinavo where we get to present the work of the film artists in residence and our activities.

Four films were shown this year **METTES STEMME** - Katrine Borre AiR April 2016. **MELKER** - Melker Sundén, AiR January 2016. **IN LIGHT OF THE REVOLUTIONIN** - Lone Falster. AiR December 2015. **A LIFE IN DIRTY MOVIES** - Wiktor Ericsson, AiR April 2016

Our unique collection of drawings from 1800 were shown at the exhibition "Friendship Portraits from Rome" *Venskabsportætter fra Rom* at Nivaagaard Museum in Denmark. For the first time ever. The exhibition was built on the portrait genre *Freundschaftsbild*, a well-known genre in Germany. The exhibition ended on 22 May. A catalogue with the drawings was also published.

A theatre play by a Norwegian author was staged in the premises of Circolo Scandinavo in collaboration with the Norwegian Embassy in Rome and an Italian theatre group. **MEDEA** by Øystein Stene and Maria Sand Italian translation:



Kristian Bjørnsen Mise en espace: Sandro Mabellini Starring: Valentina Cardinali, Riccardo Festa, Alessia Giangiuliani, Elisabetta Scarano. They used the rooftop and our living rooms and the audience followed the actors around.

A small conference was held at Circolo Scandinavo about the importance of artist residencies in collaboration with an art gallery in Rome, *AlbumArte Rome*, and the Norwegian artist residency *Nordic artist centre Dale* with the presence of their director Arild H. Eriksen and their artist in residence, an Italian visual artist Sabrina Casaei.

In 2016 Circolo Scandinavo had 158 members
18 Associations and companies, 45 individuals,
88 Artist-in-residence, 4 lifetime members and 3 Honor members

The board this year did an important work regarding the future of Circolo Scandinavo. With financial support from the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, the board was able to get prof. **Paavo Hohti** to do a feasibility study on Circolo Scandinavo. With that report, the board had an intensive strategy plan meeting and created a strategy plan where it was decided to enhance the core activities of Circolo Scandinavo rather than moving towards a Nordic Cultural Centre due to administrated and financial complications. The strategy plan is attached to this report. The board also agreed on a Code of management practices for the board's activities.



Pekka Korpinen Chairman



Ingo Arnason Director

Link to the feasibility study and the Code of management practices:

<https://www.circoloscandinavo.it/info>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pekka Korpinen'.

Pekka Korpinen
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ingo Arnason'.

Ingo Arnason
Director

Events 2016

19 January

Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



ÓLÖF NORDAL
SIGBJØRN BRATLIE
KAISU KOIVISTO
MELKER SUNDÉN

Visual artist | Iceland
Visual artist | Norway
Visual artist | Finland
Writer | Sweden

9 February

Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



IVO DE FIGUEIREDO
ÓLÖF NORDAL
ULLA WEST
HARALD E. TØRRESEN

Writer | Norway
Visual artist | Iceland
Visual artist | Sweden
Visual artist | Norway

15 February

Venskabsportætter fra Rom, Nivaagaard Museum in Denmark.

Our unique collection of drawings from 1800 where shown at the exhibition “Friendship Portraits from Rome” (Venskabsportætter fra Rom) at *Nivaagaard* Museum in Denmark. For the first time ever. The exhibition was built on the portrait genre *Freundschaftsbild*, a well-known genre in Germany. The exhibition ended on 22 May.



15 March

Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



BODIL PERSSON
RIIKKA PELO
AARNE JÄMSÄ
JANNICKE LÅKER

Dramaturge | Sweden
Writer | Finland
Sculptor | Finland
Visual artist | Norway

7 April

Director invited to lunch with king of Norway

Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway came to Italy on an official visit. The director and his wife where invited to lunch with them held by the ambassador of Norway in Italy.

11 April

Cultural visit

30 Norwegians came for a visit following in the footsteps of the Norwegian writer Sigrid Undset.

18 April

Board meeting

The first board meeting for the year 2016 was held at the Circolo's premises at Via della Lungara 231 Rome, present where:

Pekka Korpinen, Chairman
Janne Giese
Marianne Pade
Hans Lepp

Juha Ruusuvuori
Kolbrúnn Halldórsdóttir
Ingo Arnason, director
Sara Pollesello, assistant

18 April

Annual Meeting

Richard Lydiker, former president of Circolo's board, and his wife Trille Lydiker where nominated honorary members for the amazing work they have done for the association through the years.



19 April

The selection meeting

Circolo Scandinavo's valuation board gave there valuations on the applications for the AiR year 2016/2017. 50 artists where selected: female 25, male 25. Denmark 10, Faroe Islands 2, Finland 11, Iceland 6, Norway 11, Sweden 10. Writers 11, Visual artists 23, Performing art 6, Music 6 and Film 4.

22-24 April

Nordic Film Fest Roma – Special event



Circolo Scandinavo in collaboration with the Nordic Embassies in Rome organized the Nordic film festival. Circolo presented 3 documentaries and a short animated film made by an Artist-in-Residence at a special event dedicated to Circolo Scandinavo www.nordicfilmfestroma.com

METTES STEMME

Katrine Borre AiR April 2016

IN LIGHT OF THE REVOLUTIONIN

Lone Falster. AiR December 2015

MELKER

Melker Sundén, AiR January 2016

A LIFE IN DIRTY MOVIES

Wiktor Ericsson, AiR April 2016



27 April

Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



TANIA NARANJO
KATRINE BORRE
WIKTOR ERICSSON
KAROLINA ERLINGSSON

Musician | Sweden
Film director | Denmark
Film director | Sweden
Visual artist | Sweden

7 May

Open House Roma

<http://www.openhouseroma.org>

Open House Roma is an annual event that in just one weekend hundreds of the remarkable capital buildings are open to public. Around 250 people visited Circolo Scandinavo.



18 May
Meet the Artist

Artists presenting their work:



HANNE LYDIA OPØIEN FIGENSCHOU	Visual artist Norway
TERO ANNANOLLI	Visual artist Finland
KIRSIMARJA METSÄHUONE	Visual artist Finland
IRENA KRAUS	Playwright Sweden
BODIL PERSSON	Dramaturge Sweden



27 May
Cultural visit

60 students from The Oslo School of Architecture and Design and their teachers came for a visit.

15 June

Meet the Artist

Artists presenting their work:



STEINUNN THÓRARINSDÓTTIR
ANNIKA BRITT LEWIS
HENRIETTE HOUTH
ILKKA VOLANEN

Sculptor | Iceland
Dance and performance artist | Denmark/Sweden
Writer | Denmark
Lighting and sound designer | Finland

Guest artist

Oscar Furbacken visula artist from Sweden
<http://www.oscarfurbacken.se/>



1 July and 2 July

Theatre presentation/ *Mise en espace* in collaboration with Norwegian Embassy

MEDEA

by Øystein Stene and Maria Sand

Italian translation: Kristian Bjørnsen

Mise en espace: Sandro Mabellini

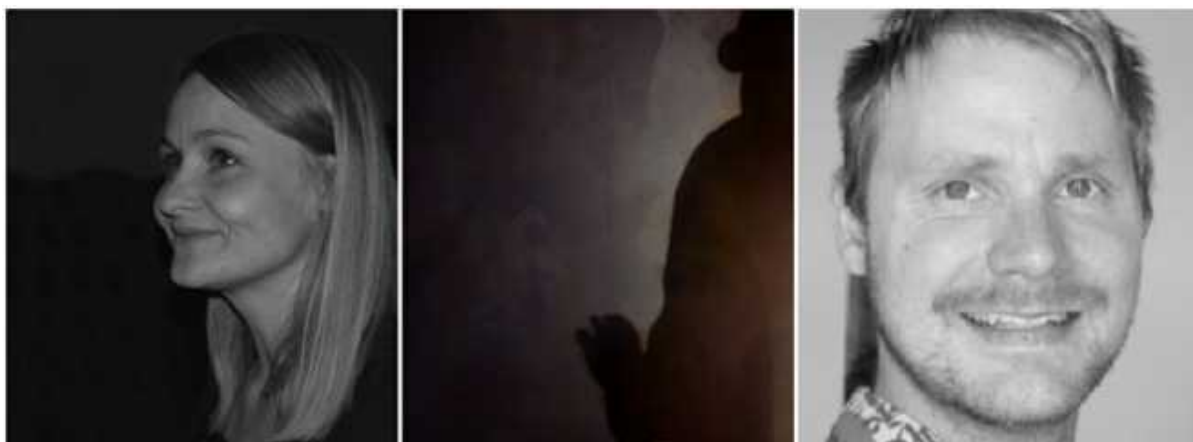
Starring: Valentina Cardinali, Riccardo Festa,
Alessia Giangiuliani, Elisabetta Scarano

An Italian - Norwegian couple are going for a holiday to Sicily. Their relationship has been in crisis since adopting a child, and their search for new experiences to revitalize the relationship lead to a Three-Way Relationship with their Sicilian hostess. After an easy going first period the game however degenerates to the point of putting the child's health at risk.



20 July
Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:

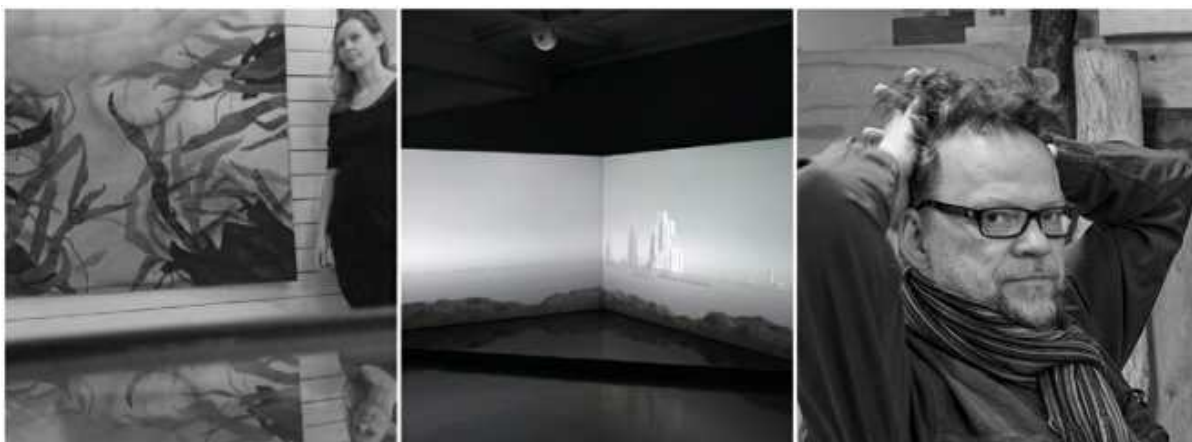


ANTTI SEPPÄNEN
HEIDI HOVE
JAANA RANNIKKO

Filmmaker | Finland
Visual artist | Denmark
Photographer | Finland

14 September
Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



PIVE TOIVONEN
NILS OLAV BØE
GUÐJÓN KETILSSON

Visual artist | Finland
Visual artist | Norway
Visual artist | Iceland

Board meeting 17-18 October

The second board meeting for the year 2017 was held at Circolo Scandinavo premises Via della Lungara 231 Rome, present where:

Pekka Korpinen, Chairman of the Board
Ingo Arnason, Director
Janne Giese
Juha Ruusuvuori
Ingeborg Stana
Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Representing the Nordic Council of Artists
Vera Norden, Representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome
Marianne Pade, Representing the Nordic institutes in Rome
Sara Pollesello, assistant

Strategy meeting

A strategy meeting for the future of Circolo was held at the Danish Institute in Rome.
A strategy plan was created and is attached to the report.

19 October

Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



FRANZ ERNST
ILKKA VOLANEN
BO MØLGAARD
CÆCILIA HOLBEK TRIER

Film director | Denmark
Lighting and sound designer | Finland
Visual artist | Denmark
Film director | Denmark

16 November
Meet the Artists

Artists presenting their work:



ELISABETH NIELSEN
ROGER FJELLSTRÖM
BO HAGLUND
RÓSA GÍSLADÓTTIR

Pianist | Denmark
Writer | Sweden
Visual artist | Finland
Sculptor | Iceland

7 December
Talk on Residency

AlbumArte Rome, Nordic Artists center Dale Norway and Circolo Scandinavo

Artist residency and their influence on the artists creative work

Ingo Arnason (IS) Director Circolo Scandinavo
Paola Ugolini (IT) Independent Art Curator, Member of AlbumArte Scientific Committee
Arild H. Eriksen (NO) Director Nordic Artists Centre Dale
Sabrina Casadei (IT) Artista AiR Nordic Artists centre Dale Norway

in dialogue with the December **Artist-in-Residence at Circolo Scandinavo.**



Albumarte

**AlbumArte and Nordic Artists' Centre Dale
Talk on Residency**

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6pm
Circolo Scandinavo - Via della Lungara 231, Roma

With: Ingo Arnason / Circolo Scandinavo, Director
Paola Ugolini / Independent Art Curator, Member of AlbumArte Scientific Committee
Arild H. Eriksen / Nordic Artists' Centre Dale, Director
Sabrina Casadei / Artist, Valentina Fiore / AlbumArte, Project Coordinator

in dialogue with the Artists-in-Residence at Circolo Scandinavo

The talk will be held in English

On the occasion of Sabrina Casadei's solo show at AlbumArte
Residence #2 | Sabrina Casadei | A Thousand Miles Away, curated by Paola Ugolini
(December 6, 2016 - January 31, 2017)

14 December
Meet the Artists

Artist presenting their work:



MARIA LLOYD

MERJA SALONEN DI GIORGIO

ELISABETH NIELSEN

CAMILLA PALM

MARIANNA KURTTO

Film director | Norway

Visual artist | Finland

Pianist | Denmark

Icon writer | Sweden

Writer | Finland



ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE 2016-2017

50 artists* where selected for the AiR program 2016-2017.

Female 25, male 25. Denmark 10, Faroe Islands 2, Finland 11, Iceland 6, Norway 11, Sweden 10. Writers 11, Visual artists 23, Performing art 6, Music 6 and Film 4.

* The list can change due to cancellations

Alexander Nordström	SE	Regissör,
Are Blytt	NO	Maleri / Skulptur
Bo Haglund	FI	Bildkonstnär
Bo Mølgaard	DK	Billedkunstner
Bùi Dam	FO	Musician/actor
Cæcilia Holbek Trier	DK	Filmdirector and scriptwriter
Camilla Palm	SE	Bildkonstnär och ikonskrivare
Carina Burman	SE	Writer
Christine Aspelund	NO	Visual artist / sculptor
Claus Haxholm	DK	Artist
Doris Bloom	DK	Billedkunstner
Elisabeth Holmegaard Nielsen	DK	Pianist / Musician
Erlend Loe	NO	Writer and screenwriter
Eva Sommestad Holten	SE	Librettist & scenograf
Franz Ernst	DK	Filmdirector
Gisle Martens Meyer	NO	Artist, composer, performer
Gudjon Ketilsson	IS	Visual artist
Hrafnkell Sigurðsson	IS	Visual artist
Ingeborg Annie Lindahl	NO	Artist
J Roger Fjellström	SE	Författare,
Jakob Vedelsby	DK	Author
Jennifer Rainsford	SE	Fine arts, film
Kenneth Bamberg	FI	Visual artist
Kristin Austreid	NO	Billedkunstner
Lisa Pacini	NO	Visual artist
Maria Lloyd	NO	Dancefilm maker

Maria Kalionpää	FI	Composer,
Maria Björklund	FI	Animation film maker
Marianna Kurtto	FI	Writer
Markku Pääskynen	FI	Writer
Martin Rane Bauck	NO	Composer
Merja Salonen di Giorgio	FI	Painter / Visual artist
Mikael Olsson	SE	Artist - fotograf
Morten Brask	DK	Writer
Morten Schantz	DK	Musician/Composer
Nick Hegreberg	NO	Manusforfatter
Nils Olav Bøe	NO	Billedkunstner
Ólöf Nordal	IS	Visual art
Peter Oskarson	SE	Regissör, skådespelare
Peter Brandt	DK	Billedkunstner
Petri Karra	FI	Novelist and screenwriter
Pive Toivonen	FI	Visual artist
Rósa Gísladóttir	IS	Sculpture
Sanna Tahvanainen	FI	Författare
Sid Hille-Taskila	FI	Composer / Pianist
Sigurbjörg Þrastardóttir	IS	Writer
Sóley Danielsen	FO	Actress
Thoranna Bjornsdottir	IS	Sound & Visual artist
Torbjörn Flygt	SE	Författare
Ulla West	SE	Visual artist



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Strategy plan for Circolo Scandinavo

1. Mission

Circolo Scandinavo has supplied artist-in-residence services for Nordic artists in Rome since 1860. The concept has been successful, which is manifested by an annual increase in the applications (373 in 2016). At the moment only every seventh applicant can be accepted to stay in Circolo's premises in Trastevere.

The need for a joined Nordic residence are manifold. Rome is a source of endless artistic richness and inspiration. The Nordic/Scandinavian label carries well Italy, and easily opens connections with Roman artistic circles. Additionally, artists in Circolo's residence get to know other Nordic artists, leading to life-long friendships, as Circolo's valuable portrait collection demonstrates.

The mission of Circolo Scandinavo is to facilitate Nordic artists' access to the roots of European art and architecture, increase interaction between artists from different fields, cultures and nationalities, and to promote the knowledge and presence of Nordic society and art in Italy and Rome.

2. Vision

All Nordic countries except Iceland have their own scientific and cultural institutes in Rome. However, they profile themselves as scientific focusing on classical studies in particular. The Nordic embassies on the other hand also have cultural budgets, but these have been significantly curtailed in recent years. It would therefore be rational to increase joint Nordic efforts with the contribution of Circolo Scandinavo, as the Nordic Film Festival in Rome has shown.

So far Circolo has operated with an extremely tight budget. Some 60 to 75 percent of the expenditures are covered by contributions from the Nordic Council of Ministers, while the remaining 25 to 40 percent are coming from private sources and tenants.

The vision is, in addition to extending the residency program, to make the artists able to cooperate internationally and to internationalize their careers and activities on a long term. Professor Paavo Hohti has recently studied the costs and benefits of alternative futures for Circolo Scandinavo (a Feasibility study 29.8.2016). The three alternatives suggested by Hohti were: a) business as usual b) expanded business as usual and c) Nordic cultural centre. For a sustainable future all three scenarios demand more funding, the first one only modestly, while the third one assumed doubling the present resources. The board has for various reasons come to the conclusion that alternative C is not a suitable option for Circolo Scandinavo, since the Board appreciates the present core activity i.e. the residence programme, so high that the Board doesn't want to risk it.

The executive board of Circolo Scandinavo sees great potential in expanding Circolo's activities and resources. The board would prefer a step by step evolution from alternative A to B along the lines of the following strategy.

3. Strategy for next ten years

a) Premises

The main cost is the lease of the premises. Professor Hohti estimated the total cost of the present premises plus administration to be 4000 euro per visiting artist per month which is high, even in the Roman context. The present long term lease with the Italian Academy of Sciences will end in April 2018. The executive board of Circolo is in the process of looking for more cost effective premises. The new location should be suitable for a more visible presence of Nordic culture in Rome, and be better accessible to the public than now. Since most applications come from artists within the visual art field, the possibility of an art gallery would be desirable.

In addition to the high rent, the reason to the heavy costs per capita is the relatively expensive form of governance of Circolo Scandinavo. Parts of the costs are unavoidable, due to the multinationalistic character of Circolo, but unit costs could be reduced by increasing the volume of activities which well can be carried by present fixed costs. Increasing the artists-in-residency from around 50 a year to 70 or 80 would hence be preferable.

b) Governance

The legal form of Circolo Scandinavo is Italian association (riconosciuto). All the power of the association lies in the hands of the members attending the annual meeting, where the executive board is appointed on two-year-long terms. The board then appoints the Director, who manages the day to day activities of Circolo in Rome. Both legal form and management practices have followed Italian legislation and norms. The board has decided to change some of them to follow also Nordic management standards, for example appointing an authorized external auditor, and adjusting the acceptance of financial statements accordingly. The responsibilities of the board and the director will be specified more precisely in the code of management practices.

An association with varying short term memberships may not be the optimal management base for enlarged financial responsibilities, such as a Nordic cultural centre would bring. Professor Hohti is suggesting the Finnish model of National cultural centre, i.e. the foundation. The foundation model is studied according to Italian laws. Circolo's board suggests a joint working group together with the NCM should study the long term future of Circolo Scandinavo. It would be desirable to have a representative of the NCM present, at least as an observer, at Circolo's board meetings.

The one-sided finance structure implies a risk for sustainable continuity, since Circolo has to agree on a long term lease, while the main contribution is decided on an annual basis. Before signing a new long term lease it would be of importance to have a letter of understanding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, securing the long term character of the current form of financing Circolo.

c) New activities

The increase of artists-in-residence depends on the new premises and increased funding. There are no other obstacles to grow along "business as usual".

In the evolutionary model there are two natural ways to grow. The first would be – on a project base – annually organize two to three master classes for young artists in i.e. visual art, theatre, dance, film, etc. Intensive master classes for Nordic and perhaps also Italian young artists or

teachers would be optimal for deep interaction within Nordic culture and also between Nordic and Italian culture. This would naturally presume extra finance. The other new form of activity would be to create platforms for lectures on Nordic society and culture.

The main mission of the Circolo is to house Nordic artists in an internordic and international environment, to make specific attempt to further dialogue between representatives of various art forms, and to build bridges between experienced artist and the younger ones just starting on their artistic journey. Moreover, an essential part of the Circolo's work it to provide a platform for intercultural exchange between the Nordic art world and the present-day international melting pot of Rome, and for the diachronic encounter with Italian culture that constitutes the original *raison d'être* for the Circolo.