



# CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

## BOARD MEETING 24-25.9 2018

**Place:** 24.9 The Norwegian Institute, 25.9 Circolo Scandinavo

Present: Chairman Tarja Cronberg, Vice chairman Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Janne Giese, Björn Ross, Juha Ruusuvoori, Lars Strandh, Ingo Arnason, Susanna Tavazzi, Oona Haapamäki, Marianne Pade (24.9)

### 1. Opening and selection of the secretary

The meeting was opened at 15.30 on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September and reopened again at 09.01 on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. Cronberg acted as chairman and Haapamäki was selected as secretary for the meeting. Halldórsdóttir acted as chairman for the paragraphs 7-9 and partly for paragraphs 4, 5 and 14.

The Board discussed some administrative questions before continuing with the official form of the agenda. It was requested that all official documents regarding the meeting should be sent out in time before every meeting, so all Board members could prepare themselves properly. Arnason stated that all necessary documents had been sent out in time, and most of them were also available on Circolo Scandinavos web page. **Conclusion: More attention should be paid to preparing official documents before every board meeting, and necessary links to the documents need to be attached.**

### 2. Extraordinary General Assembly

In the previous meeting the board was concerned whether appointing Arnason as the legal representative of the Circolo was legally valid without a change of the Statutes and calling for an Extraordinary General Assembly. **Conclusion: The Board decided that it was not necessary to call for an Extraordinary General Assembly since after some research it was confirmed that the statutes do not need to be changed for the selection to be legally valid according to Italian law.**

### **3. The legal representation of CS**

Arnason presented to the board a document from the Italian tax organization which states that Arnason is the sole legal representative of Circolo Scandinavo. Chairman Cronberg also requested a document from the bank stating that Arnason is the only one that has Procura and that she has not. The document will be sent out to the board by Arnason within two weeks to finalize the matter. Under paragraph 5 the procura for CS was discussed further and the board agreed to address the need for a second person holding the Procura, in case of any unexpected events and for the sake of safety. **Conclusion: Arnason will present the document from the bank stating that he is the only one with per procura for Circolo Scandinavo, to the Board within two weeks.**

### **4. Changes of the CS statutes**

Referring to the earlier discussions on the need for revising the Statutes of CS, the Board decided to establish a working group consisting of Ross, Strandh and Halldórsdóttir, with Arnason and Cronberg on the sideline.

The group was given the assignment of making a proposal for new Statutes, presented to the Board latest in January 2019. The final proposal should be written in English and given the approval of a specialist in Italian legislation. It will be double checked and translated into Italian by a certified translator. The Board's proposal for the revised Statutes should then be sent to all members of CS in due time before the General Assembly held March 26th. Jens Gehl's paper Code of management practices (Internal regulations) will be worked upon alongside the new Statutes.

A few additions/corrections to be made:

- Deputies/substitutes for the representatives from the Nordic Embassies and Institutes
- Clarification of the legal representative
- Procura: The Director and The Chairman should both be responsible for the Procura

**Conclusion: A working group consisting of Ross, Strandh and Halldórsdóttir with Arnason and Cronberg on the sideline will make proposals for new Statutes that should be presented to the Board latest in January 2019. This document will be written in English and translated into Italian.**

### **5. Director's contract**

Arnason was asked to leave the room for discussing the paragraph at 15.56 and at 09.13. The Board discussed Arnason's wish to have a pay rise, so his salary would be 5000€. Arnason would then take care of the taxes himself. The Board contemplated different solutions to raise the pay since the economic situation does not allow a raise as is. After having discussed the matter thoroughly, the board suggested three different possibilities for improving Circolo Scandinavo's economic situation and with that, raising the Director's salary.

1. Balancing costs in the budget
2. Meeting with NCM to ask for additional funding
3. Giving Arnason the opportunity to seek funding for the CS and receiving a commission from any funding granted

It was stated that the search for a new Director needs to be started well in advance since Arnason's last month of working will be July 2020 and it is important that a new Director is given some time to work with Arnason before taking over in September 2020.

**Conclusion: The Board agreed that the Director's pay is not fair, and that it should be raised. Different solutions were discussed, and it was decided that the Director's pay will be increased with 200€ monthly starting immediately, and 300€ monthly beginning from September 2019. The possibility of the Director singlehandedly seeking funding and receiving commission for whatever the Circolo is granted needs to be legally validated before the Board takes a decision about it. Arnason will investigate the matter and notify the Board when he has received correct information. The Board drafted a new contract for the Director. Cronberg and Haapamäki left the room to draft the necessary changes to the contract, new dates and the new raised salary for the Director. The contract was discussed and accepted by the Board with some small adjustments. Chairman Cronberg signed the contract on behalf of the Board.**

## **6. The rental agreement**

The rent for the premises at via della Lungara 231 remains the same, but the Academia dei Lincei accepts responsibility for external maintenance. If the Circolo would wish to lower the rent, it would need to end the contract and then try to negotiate a new one. **Conclusion: It was concluded that this was not worth the risk. The rental agreement for the next six years has been signed by Arnason as the Circolo's legal representative.**

## **7. Director's report of the AiR selection and the coming AiR year**

Arnason informed the board about the general procedure for the selection process and the results for this year. There were 304 applicants in total for the season 2019/2020, 40 less from Sweden for some reason. The Board had given 87 applicants highest priority (1). Of these 87, 59 were selected in total. The different national artist associations have very different practices when it comes to the selection process and some do not take part in the selection at all. It's Arnason's priority to compose artists from different countries each month.

The question of the procedure without a physical meeting and discussions was discussed. The Board concluded that the online voting works, but the chemistry of an ordinary meeting is missed. When the selection for next season takes place, the Board will consider a Skype-meeting to conclude the selection process, and/or try to raise more money to add an extra meeting in June. The board agreed that the procedure of the selection should be found in the code of management practices.

A question was raised about the status of architects and other "border-artists", whether they should be allowed to apply or not, and how they should be evaluated by the jury/evaluator. This raised a general discussion about Artists versus Scientists and the role and history of Circolo and the Nordic Institutes. The conclusion was that architects with clear artistic projects should be treated equally with other artists.

**Conclusion: Arnason will pick artists from different countries as equally as possible. The Board will try having a Skype meeting to conclude the selection process if additional funding is not available. Architects with clear artistic projects will in the future be treated equally with other artists.**

## **8. Masterclasses**

MACRO ASILO is an art space run by the city of Rome. From October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 it is running a new program as a platform open for all artist which means that AiR can propose activities such as performances, masterclasses, exhibitions, lectures etc. Ingo has furthermore a carte blanche to propose artists from CS. Arnason will send a memo about it to the board.

## **9. Finance CS**

It was concluded that the economic situation of Circolo Scandinavo does not, as is, allow for any extra expenses and that the Circolo will probably achieve a negative balance this year. All ways of either balancing costs or gaining funding need to be investigated by the Director and Board alike.

Regarding attempts to balance the costs of CS suggestions were contemplated such as only one Board meeting annually and the second via Skype and/or raising the rent of the apartments. The suggestion about only having one board meeting annually was rejected. After some discussion it was concluded that the rent should be raised to release more funds in the budget. The Board decided to raise the rent for all the rooms with 50€, so the increase would be around 10%. This raise will release 3300€ in the budget. The suggestion was considered fair by the Board given the fact that the rent has not been raised in the last 15 years. The Board will suggest to the next board to further raise the rent with 50€ when the new Director will start working.

During the discussion it was pointed out that there is an unused room opposite the kitchen that is currently used as a storage room. The Board urges the Circolo to clear the room that was formerly a studio, so it could become another room for the artists and furthermore generate more money. Arnason will clear it and turn it into a small room for an artist and have it set up, so it could be used from November on. Arnason will contact artists on the waiting list to check if there are artists willing to come on a short notice. It was decided that the price of the new room will be 450€ monthly.

It was discussed that the kitchen could be adjusted further to release more space and it was also discussed that to make space for one more artist, the kitchen in the former studio should be restored.

It was also suggested that the Circolo could sell some of the chattels to help the economy, as has been done in the past as well. This suggestion was not supported fully.

When the Board and the Director seek funding, it was agreed on that a project-based plan probably would work best. Seeking funds for example furniture and renovations or for a raise for the new Director could be easier than for normal activities. It was agreed upon that all documents attached to the applications need to be up to date and look professional.

**Conclusion: To release more funds within the Circolo the Board decides to raise the rent of all the rooms with 50€. The room opposite the kitchen will be turned into a room for another artist. The kitchen in the studio will be reinstalled to make space for another artist. When seeking for funds, project-based plans with professional looking documents will be used to make the process easier.**

## **10. Strategy and the follow up with NCM**

Upon a meeting between Cronberg and Annika Söderlund, senior advisor at NCM, it was understood that Circolo Scandinavo will not receive additional funding, but the funding will remain the same. It was also advised that Circolo's activities should be increased and made more visible. After a long discussion about whether it's worth the risk to ask for extra funding, it's concluded that discussions with the Ministers of NCM is the best chance the Circolo has, to gain more funding. The Board will make attempts to further negotiate with the NCM to gain access to further funding for the Director's pay and other projects at the Circolo. The Board will set meetings with the cultural ministers of each Nordic country along the ministers responsible for Nordic Cooperation to stress the importance of Circolo Scandinavo in the Nordic context. These meetings should be set up during the autumn 2018 and attended by Cronberg in Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo and Copenhagen, and by Halldórsdóttir in Reykjavik. Each minister should receive proper documentation and a book of the Circolo's history.

It was suggested that the cultural ministers of the Nordic countries would be invited to a meeting at Circolo Scandinavo to discuss funding. It was deemed unlikely that they would come, but according to Cronberg the *Ämbetsmannakommitté* are more positive to the idea of a meeting in Rome. The meeting should be held before the NCM decides about their next year budget, so before the end of 2018. In this way the meeting might affect the Circolo's funding positively. Since the Circolo received 2400€ less than what was budgeted for, it could be a small enough sum that the NCM at least would be willing to give.

**Conclusion: Cronberg will, without extra cost, set meetings with the Nordic ministers responsible for culture and Nordic cooperation to stress the importance of the Circolo and to try to gain more funding. For Iceland's part, Halldórsdóttir will act as representative. Each minister will receive a book about Circolo Scandinavo's history. The Ämbetsmannakommitté will be invited to a meeting at the Circolo as soon as possible.**

### **11. Honorary members**

The Board discussed whether to appoint two new Honorary members. **Conclusion: Since there were more pressing matters to be discussed, the Board decided to postpone the paragraph of appointing new Honorary members until the next meeting.**

### **12. Future of the Board**

Pade suggested that the representation of the Nordic Institutes be forwarded from Denmark to Norway since she is leaving Rome. Tavazzi announced that the Nordic Embassies will also nominate a new Board-member before the next General Assembly. Halldórsdóttir, Cronberg, Giese and Ruusuvoori also announced that they are leaving the board. Strandh

and Ross announced that they are willing to run for another period. It was stressed that preparations need to be made concerning the election of chair to avoid a situation where nobody wants to be chair. A newsletter should be sent out to the members so they can prepare nominees for the General Assembly. **Conclusion: The whole Board will resign after this period, except for Ross and Strandh who will run for another period.**

### **13. Next meeting and General Assembly**

The Board decided that the next board meeting will be held Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March at 15.00 and Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at 10.00. The General Assembly will be held at Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at 18.00. The Board will recommend the next board to hold a meeting directly after the General Assembly to be properly prepared for their task.

### **14. Any other business**

Giese updated the board on the Bloch exhibition in the US and stressed that it has been a success. The interest in the drawings is vast and they have received positive publicity and admiration. It's believed that the interest in the drawings will further grow since the Metropolitan museum is preparing an exhibition about Danish painters during the Golden Age.

The Board discussed the importance of visibility of Circolo Scandinavo. Recently there was an article about the former Circolo artist, Christine Aspelund, in the in-flight magazine at SAS. This kind of visibility is crucial for the Circolo and it was proposed that the assistant contacts different magazines and newspapers in the Nordic countries to try to raise interest in Circolo Scandinavo.

It was suggested that Peter Tiltelbech, the curator of the Bloch exhibition at Nivågaard and in the US, could extraordinarily be accepted as AiR at CS. The Board decided that Arnason, on behalf of the Board, sends a letter to Tiltelbech where the Board expresses its acknowledgement and gratitude for his important work. As a token of appreciation, he will be offered a stay in CS at a convenient time upon availability due to cancellations (long or short notice). But because of the grave financial situation of CS he will be charged the official rent.

A letter of gratitude should be sent to Svenska Kulturfonden for their generous help with funds.

Anne Nicolaysen and Christopher Prescott should receive a book as a token of appreciation for letting Circolo Scandinavo hold a meeting at the Norwegian Institute.

**Conclusion: The assistant will, in all ways possible, work with the visibility of Circolo Scandinavo. Peter Tiltelbech will be sent a letter of gratitude and offered a stay at CS**

**when there is a cancellation. Svenska Kulturfonden will be sent a letter of gratitude for their generous help with funds. Anne Nicolaysen and Christopher Prescott will receive a book of Circolo's history.**

The meeting was closed at 18.17 on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of September and at 13.20 on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.