



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

BOARD MEETING 14.5.2020 online

Present: Chair Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Vice Chair Lars Strandh, Björn Ross, Lone Falster, Ingo Arnason, Tinja Räsänen, Mia Törnqvist, Hilla Okkonen, Christopher Prescott, Marie Kraft.

1. Opening and selection of the secretary.

The meeting was opened at 13:00 on Thursday 14th of May 2020. Halldórsdóttir acted as chair and Räsänen was selected as secretary for the meeting.

2. The current situation at Circolo Scandinavo

Circolo is still closed due to the Covid-19 situation in Europe and in accordance with instructions from Italian authorities. The artists in residence that were supposed to stay at Circolo in April, May, June and July have all postponed their stay.

The board decided that Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir will contact the Nordic Council of Ministers to discuss and brief them about Circolo's situation. She will also ask them for advice for how Circolo should go through the rest of the year and discuss the financial situation and a possible emergency support provided by NCM. Arnason will prepare a paper stating the current financial situation of Circolo. Also the ministers of culture in the Nordic countries will be contacted and given an update on the situation of Circolo.

Arnason has been in contact with the landlord Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei regarding the situation of Circolo and the possibility to lower the rent. Accademia replied that they are open for negotiation, which will take place in the coming days. The Board will be informed about the result of that negotiations.

3. The plan for the rest of the year

As the current state of affairs does not allow Circolo to open the residency for the summer months, the board must discuss all possible options concerning the reopening of the residency. This also affects the contract with the current director Ingo Arnason and the next director Marie Kraft, who was supposed to start working on the 1st of July.

Before the meeting Ingo Arnason presented the board with two options regarding the future of Circolo.

Option A. If the situation allows, Circolo will open its residency in September. The board of Circolo will make new contracts with both Arnason and Kraft that they will both be working together in September, instead of July as intended. At this point there is no information about what kind of implements and rules there will be in September regarding for example the sanitizing of kitchen, rooms and bathrooms during and after the artists are at Circolo. It is also uncertain how many artists can stay at a time. The situation also affects the renovation-plan. Arnason offered to paint the rooms and work on the renovations during summer and then his salary for two months could be taken from the renovation budget.

Option B. Circolo will open in January or sooner if the situation allows it. The board will make new contracts both with Arnason and Kraft. The contract of Arnason can be terminated with one month's notice. Arnason offers to paint the rooms of Circolo during summer and his salary will be taken from the renovation budget. Kraft's contract would state that she would start working in January or as soon as Circolo is able to open. Arnason and Kraft would work together for one month when Circolo opens.

The board examined both options. The plans of the Nordic Institutes were also taken into consideration and looked for as guidance. Kraft pointed out that if Option B would be chosen she'd need to know well in advance when she would start working.

The board decided to choose option A and aim at opening Circolo again in September, but be prepared for a limited number of artists until the beginning of 2021, maybe longer. Arnason and Kraft will work together for the month of September. Arnason will have his one month of summer vacation as planned in August and then return to Circolo for one month. The contracts of Arnason and Kraft will be amended accordingly.

Since there is no activity at Circolo at the moment, the board discussed to look into different options about what activities, projects or workshops could be made online during the time that the residency itself is closed. No formal conclusion was made on this point but ideas will be communicated via Slack, the communication platform the board has implemented.

3. The Open Call

The last day to apply for the Open Call is 1st of June. The board discussed due to the uncertainty of any possible restrictions, whether the deadline should be moved even further or whether to have an open deadline. The board decided to go for an open deadline and that Arnason and Halldórsdóttir will make a suggestion about how it could work in practice. The board suggested that Arnason, involving Kraft, takes up direct contact with the artists who had to cancel to see what they have planned for the fall.

4. Other matters

The call for the General Assembly has been put out according to the statutes. The date for the assembly is the 15th of June, with the possibility to move the assembly.


The crowdfunding campaign for Circolo, suggested on the board meeting in March was reopened and a working group consisting of Hilla Okkonen, Marie Kraft, Björn Ross and Lone Falster was created to develop the plan.

The future of the intern-program is uncertain at this point and Svenska Kulturfonden has postponed the application period for the program. They have not informed of any new dates for the application period or if the whole program is cancelled. Arnason will inform the board of any further development and communication with SK.

Arnason informed the board about the alternatives Circolo has regarding the contract of the cleaner and the board discussed the different alternatives. The cleaner has been cleaning the residency two times per week. Because there are no artists at Circolo at the moment she has not been working in April and May. The board emphasizes that the negotiation with the cleaner should be done with the careful consideration and gives Arnason the permission to offer the cleaner the following: Her salary for April and May will be paid now and she will deliver the work during the summer months after the rooms have been painted or in the autumn when Circolo reopens, since there will most likely be more work then.

The meeting was closed at 14:56.


Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir
Chair


Tinja Räsänen
Secretary