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KOLBRUN HALLDÓRSDÓTTIR CHAIR OF THE BOARD 2020

160 years, celebrated in quarantine

It is not easy to decide how to start the annual report in these unprecedented times.

The board of Circolo Scandinavo started off the year 2020 full of optimism, eager for the year ahead. The Nordic Council of Ministers had granted us a significant increase in the annual contribution, as well as a generous donation, intended to replace the old gas-heater, repair the damage caused by water leakage and perform other necessary repairs in the living quarters of Via della Lungara. We were looking forward to welcoming our new director, Marie Kraft, and excited for the intended party we planned on throwing Ingo to thank him for the eight years he contributed to Circolco Scandinavo's development. How fitting it seemed that these exciting events coincided with our 160th anniversary celebration!

At the beginning of the year, we had no idea how much impact the Covid-19 pandemic would have on the operation of the residency, but as early as March, it was clear that it would be significant. The only thing we could hope for was that it would be short-lived, maybe about three months. In March, all the artists currently in the residency had to leave. Ingo and Tinja worked from home and tried to organize operations, hoping we would be able to reopen in the fall. The summer was spent performing all necessary renovations. It soon became apparent that the 160-anniversary celebration would have to be postponed, as well as the welcome of our new director. When Marie finally came to Circolo Scandinavo, on the 1st of September, Rome was in a state of lockdown, Tinja had returned home to Finland and no new intern was expected. Additionally, only four rooms could be opened up to artists in the residency program, but the premises looked better than they had ever done, since before we moved in, thanks to Ingo and the skilled Italian craftsmen, and NCM.





In June we received the disappointing news from the NCM that a decision had been made to redistribute the Nordic funds between the individual sectors over the coming years, thus the funding of Circolo Scandinavo would be cut by 5% a year from 2021 to2024, or 20% in all. This was a severe blow and affected all our attempts to cope with the impact of Covid-19 on our operations. The board sent a plea to the NCM and asked the Council to reconsider this decision, bearing in mind that this year the residency celebrates its 160 years. By the end of the year, the final budget of NCM was implemented, without any major changes.

Since then the board has taken various measures to minimize the damage. We formed a fundraising group, applied for a reduced lease from Accademia dei Lincei, assigned Ingo to work part-time as a project manager, since the board could not provide Marie with an assistant, and in addition, we continued our efforts to organize the celebration of the 160th anniversary and reinvent a reduced AiR program.

In some ways we succeeded, we managed to raise funds from Augustinus Fonden, Det Obeliske Familie Fond and Letterstedtska Fonden, and received generous support from KLYS – The Swedish Artists Organisation. The board would like to take this opportunity to thank these benefactors for their invaluable contributions. We would also like to expresses our deepest gratitude to Circolo's new director Marie Kraft and Circolo's current project manager Ingo Arnason for their resourcefulness, patience and perseverance in such times, where circumstance dictates the 160 year history of a unique cultural heritage be celebrated in quarantine.

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir







INGO ARNASON DIRECTOR 2012- 2020

My time as the director of Circolo has come to an end after eight years. The year 2020 was destined to be the year of change for Circolo and for me personally, but never could I imagine what this year had in hands for us. These eight years have been an amazing time and a privilege for me and my family to be part of this unique Nordic intercultural world that is here in Rome. I am filled with gratitude for this amazing time. I want to thank all the artists that have come to Circolo. It has been a privilege and a pleasure for me and my family to get to know you all and your amazing work.

I also want to thank all the assistants, both on my behalf and my family, that have worked with me and been a big part of our journey here; Charlotte Steffansson-Myrskog, Caroline Mård, Freja Lindeman, Martina Dahm, Sara Pollesello, Simon Karlsson, Kristiina Teppo, Oona Haapamäki and Tinja Räsänen.

I want to thank the board members and the 4 chairs: Anders Bjurner, Pekka Korpinen, Tanja Cronberg and Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir for their collaboration and to our administrative consultants Daniela Palermi and Sergio Manfredi. And of course, heartwarming thanks to Elzbieta Krawczyk who has been a part of Circolo for more than 15 years.

I want to thank Marie Kraft, the new director for her work and picking up the baton in a totally changed scenario and her resourceful handling of the situation. I am sure Circolo is in good hands for the next challenging years.

And last but not least I want to thank our members that have shown Circolo its love and support and are a big part of creating this Nordic home in Rome.

All The best Ingo Arnason





MARIE KRAFT NEW DIRECTOR 2020

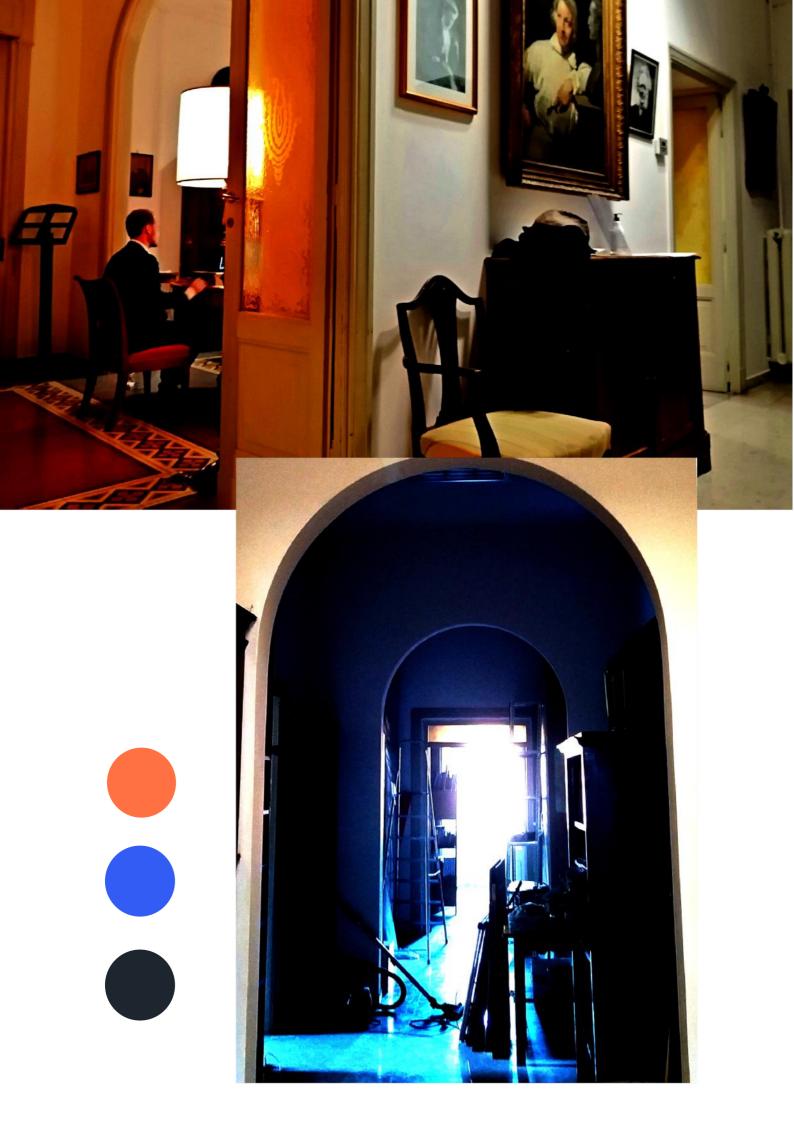
The year 2020 was full of new experiences, in the Nordic region and in the rest of the world. In the middle of difficult times for many people, I had the pleasure of arriving in Circolo Scandinavo in Rome on 1st of September. As a director for Circolo scandinavo. I am honoured and happy to have received the trust of the board to continue the work of the Nordic collaboration in Rome and develop the activities of the association further. A most useful month of overlapping with the former director was carefully planned by the board and when the Circolo needed an assistant for the following months we were lucky that Ingo Arnasson was still present in the city and available to assist me part-time.

It has been a special time to start to work as a director of an organization that depends completely on mobility between countries and regions. Many artists in residence have been changing their planning and the restrictions in Rome have made most of the public activities impossible.

During its 160 years existence, the Circolo Scandinavo has been able to adapt to new circumstances multiple times, and as a small institution this has probably been part of its strength. Even though life will go back to something more normal, we will probably need to change many of our old habits. With its long flexible past, I believe that Circolo Scandianvo has the capacity to adapt to new challenges and to take an active part in a transformation of our society where art and culture have agency. I am looking forward to taking part in that adventure during the coming years.

Marie Kraft





100-2020

NORDIC ARTISTS IN ROME FOR 160 YEARS

WHO WE ARE / WHAT WE DO

Circolo Scandinavo (Skandinavisk Forenings Kunstnershus) in Rome works to enhance mobility, networking, and production by offering a Nordic residency program in Rome for Nordic professional artists working in all art forms. At the same time, we are a platform for promoting and facilitating Nordic art and culture in Italy. Located outside the Nordic region, CS gives artists the opportunity to use the residency centre as a Nordic basis for broader international cooperation and exposure. The program is rooted in a Nordic network: political, cultural, economic, organizational and artistic.

At the residency, artists from the Nordic countries are given a space to create their art in an inter-Nordic environment. The current location is next to Villa Farnesina opposite to Palazzo Corsini, which is known as the home of the Swedish Queen Kristina, where she spent the last 35 years of her life and created her Academy for artists and scientists.







2020 was a challenging year for Circolo Scandinavo and the activities have been deeply affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Depending on artists' mobility in Europe and located in Italy, the first country to be highly affected by the virus propagation, CS was totally closed for six months, from March to August. To make use of the period with empty rooms, CS engaged an important renovation financed by special funding from Nordic Council of Ministers. All walls and ceilings were painted white and the two gas heaters for warm water and radiators were changed. The roof-top terrace was reorganised with plants and furniture and the book collection was cleaned.

When it was possible to open again in September, the health regulations forced the residence to reduce the number of apartments and rooms and the number of artists in residence in 2020 therefore was much lower than planned. At the same time, it is possible that the quality of the residence increased in other ways. Most artists who managed to come to Rome in the Autumn, chose to stay longer and their concentration and work production was high. As the city closed early in the nights, artists spent more time than usually in the apartment Via della Lungara, which also gave birth to several collaborations and new projects





In 2020 Circolo Scandinavo in Rome had existed for 160 years as the oldest Nordic cultural platform outside the Nordic region. In the early 1800s were "all" artists from northern Europe to travel to Rome. Goethe had been there earlier, the Dane Thorvaldsen was there and his countryman, HC Andersen was there. On 2 July 1860 the three Scandinavian - Danish, Norwegian and Swedish - libraries situated in Rome, formally merged as "Circolo Scandinavo per Artiste e Scienziati". Soon Finnish, and later Icelandic, artists could join too - and today Circolo Scandinavo is a great example of collaboration between all the five Nordic countries. Through the years a host of outstanding Nordic artists have been connected to the Circolo - or stayed there - such as Bjørnson, Heise, Walter Runeberg, Constantin Hansen, Ibsen, Grieg, Marstrand, Heiberg, Bournonville, Brandes, Strindberg, Lundbye, Hammershøi, Lagerlöf, Johannes Jørgensen, Drachman, Bergsøe, Krøyer, Sophus Claussen, Carl Nielsen, Willumsen, Andersen Nexø, Undset, Pontoppidan, Evert Taube, Vigeland, Laxness, Jónsson and many others.



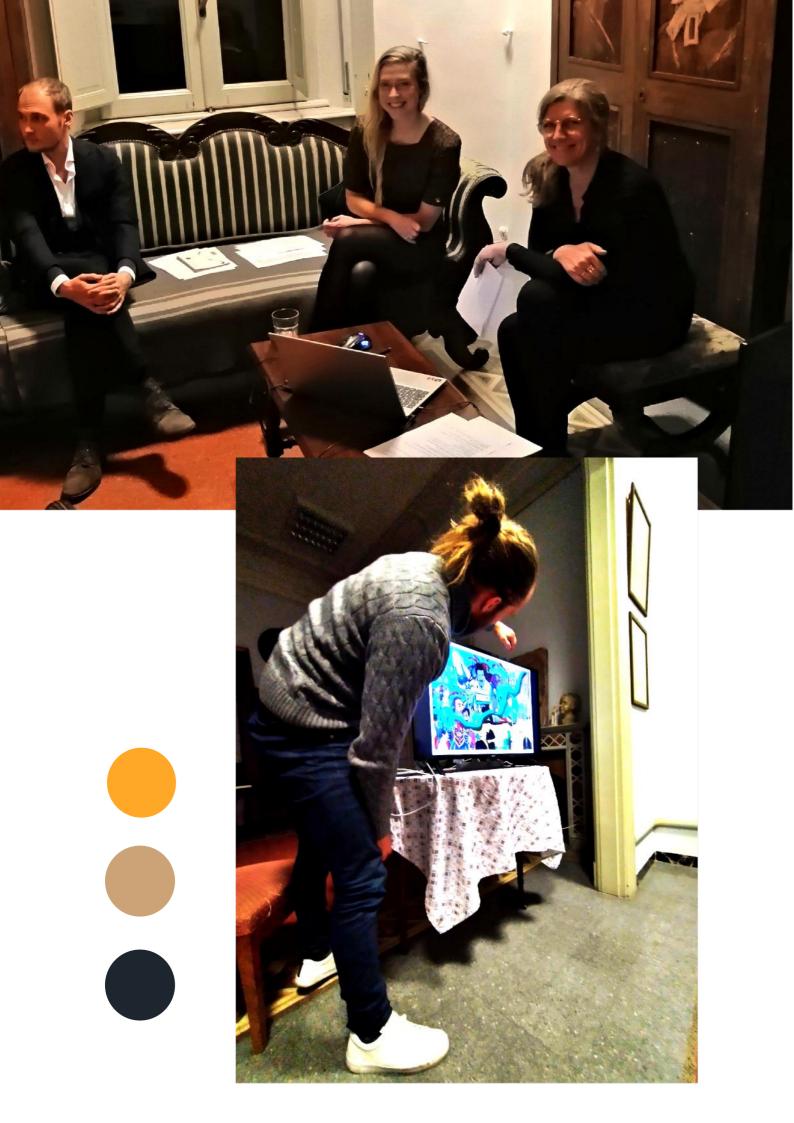


The Artist Residency's main tasks is to provide a modern artist-in-residence program in a creative environment where the artist can focus on creating. Creativity is a key component in the Nordic cultural co-operation. The co-operation will strengthen the Nordic region as an attractive and stimulating place for creators or mediators of art and culture. The need for a joined Nordic residence is manifold. Rome is a source of endless artistic richness and inspiration. The Nordic and Scandinavian label carries well in 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 historic portrait collection demonstrates.











FINANCE

The economic situation of the Circolo scandinavo in 2020 has been difficult. After several difficult years, the board had managed to obtain a n increase of the grant from Nordisk ministrerrådet which would give the director a more convenient salary and allow new projects to be developed. The Covid-19 pandemic changed the situation when the activities had to close down for six months and then open for a reduced number of artists in residence. This meant that the participation to the rent from the artists decreased at least 60 %. The internship programme financed by Svenska kulturfonden in Finland was cancelled due to the pandemic fram September 2020 to July 2021. Which implied that Circolo scandinavo also had to pay an assistant during four months. To reduce the costs the directors accepted to postpone the new directors start and during the closing the former director worked directly with the renovation of the apartment and therefore was paid by the renovation budget. They also agreed to postpone the increase of their salaries. The budget situation was finally solved by exceptional funding received from several national and Nordic associations or foundations after an intense work of applications from board members and the directors.







ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE 2020 - 2021

As an important number of artists had to postpone their stay during the spring, we could offer residence only to the artists who had applied in 2019. The call was open in April 2020 but finally CS had to inform the artists that had applied that there would be no free rooms during the following period October 2020 – September 2021.

In 2019 we received a total of 291 applications for the period October 2019 - September 2020. The applications were received directly via our application form on www.circoloscandinavo.it. The selection was made by an CS evaluation board, assisted by Nordic artist organizations and the Director. Artistic quality is the most significant criteria in the selection. In total 59 artists, out of 291 were selected. The number of residency artists admitted varies depending on the granted stay duration 1-3 months.

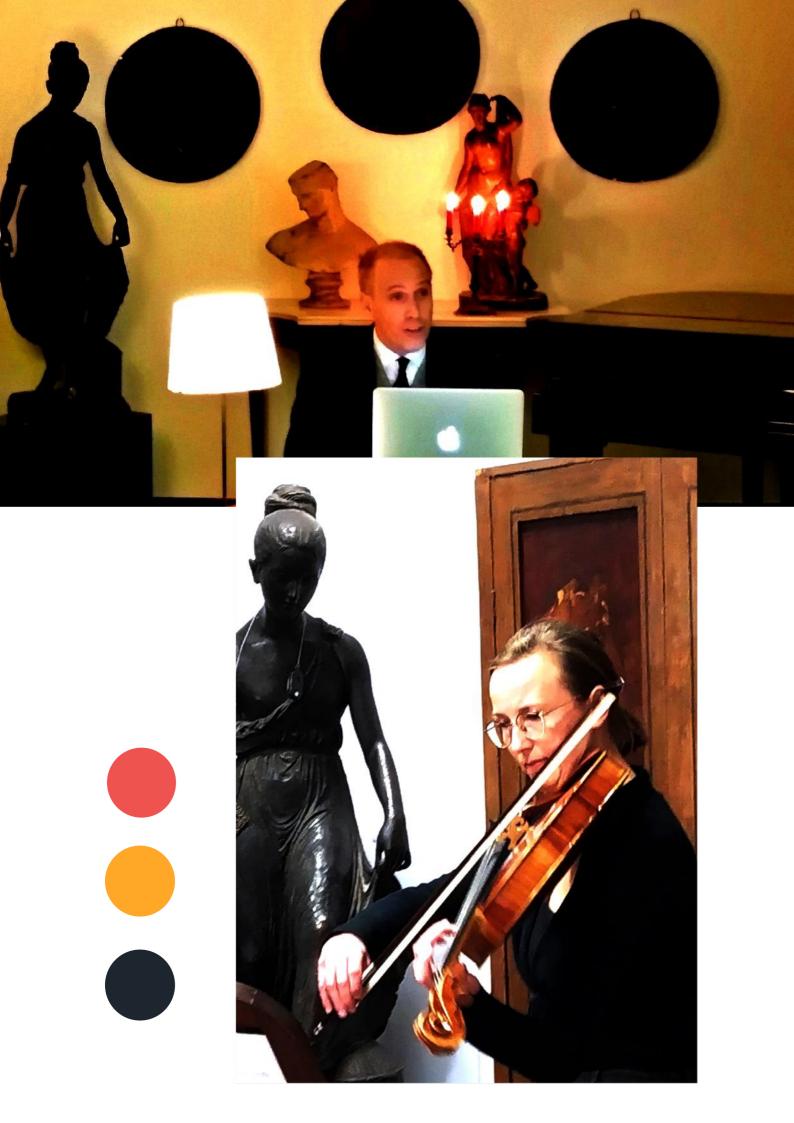


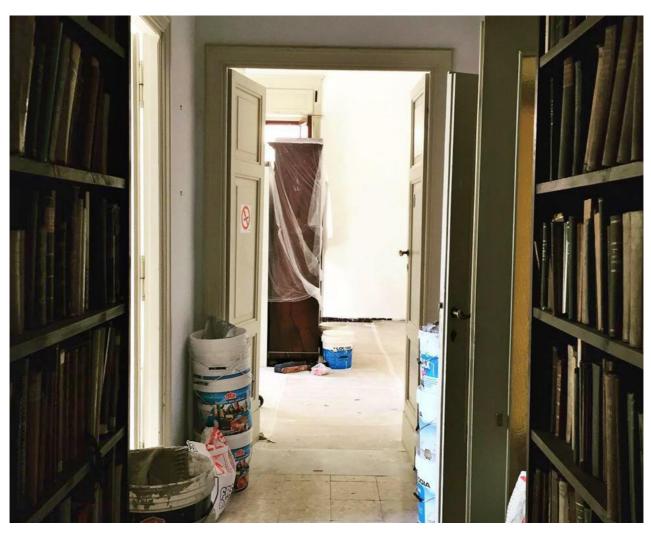


The regulations because of Covid-19 allowed CS to open the residence in September 2020 with three large rooms and one apartment instead of six rooms and one apartment as offered during the previous two years. During the year 2020, a total 36 artists months were offered at CS. A few of the selected artists cancelled and many had to postpone their stay, which means that 14 artists selected in 2019 are already planned in residence for the coming period October 2021- September 2022.

The lower number of artists months offered has led to a lower income of artists participation fees by more than 60% (220 000 DKK minus) and set the budget 2020-2021 of CS in a difficult situation.











EVENTS

Meet The Artists - MTA

Throughout the year we organized artists talks "MEET THE ARTISTS" with the artists-in-residence. We organized 5 events in 2020, with approximately 100 people attending. The talks were held in an informal and friendly atmosphere and included small refreshments, making the evenings an excellent occasion for networking and making new professional connections and acquaintances. In September, the event was organised with special registration due the pandemic restrictions and 30 professionals in art and culture in Rome assisted to the presentations. The regulations during the following months did not allow any open events.











Meet the Artists 16.1. THURSDAY

MAJ-BRITT ANDERSSON Art historian, researcher, lecturer and writer | Sweden

MADS MYGIND Poet | Denmark

Meet the Artists 21.1

Agnes Nedregård ALT GÅR BRA - Visual artists | Norway
Branko Boero Imwinkelried ALT GÅR BRA - Visual artists | Norway
MARIE STOCKMARR BECKER Musician | Denmark
JOHN SUNDKVIST Painter and essayist | Sweden
+ special guest CLAIRE ROUDENKO-BERTIN

Meet the Artists 18.2 TUESDAY

HELINÄ HUKKATAIVAL Visual/Performance artist | Finland

MARGRÉT KRISTÍN SIGURÐARDÓTTIR Singer-songwriter | Iceland

JANNE TALSTAD Visual artist | Norway









Alt Går Bra, Contemporary Art and the Classics 18.2

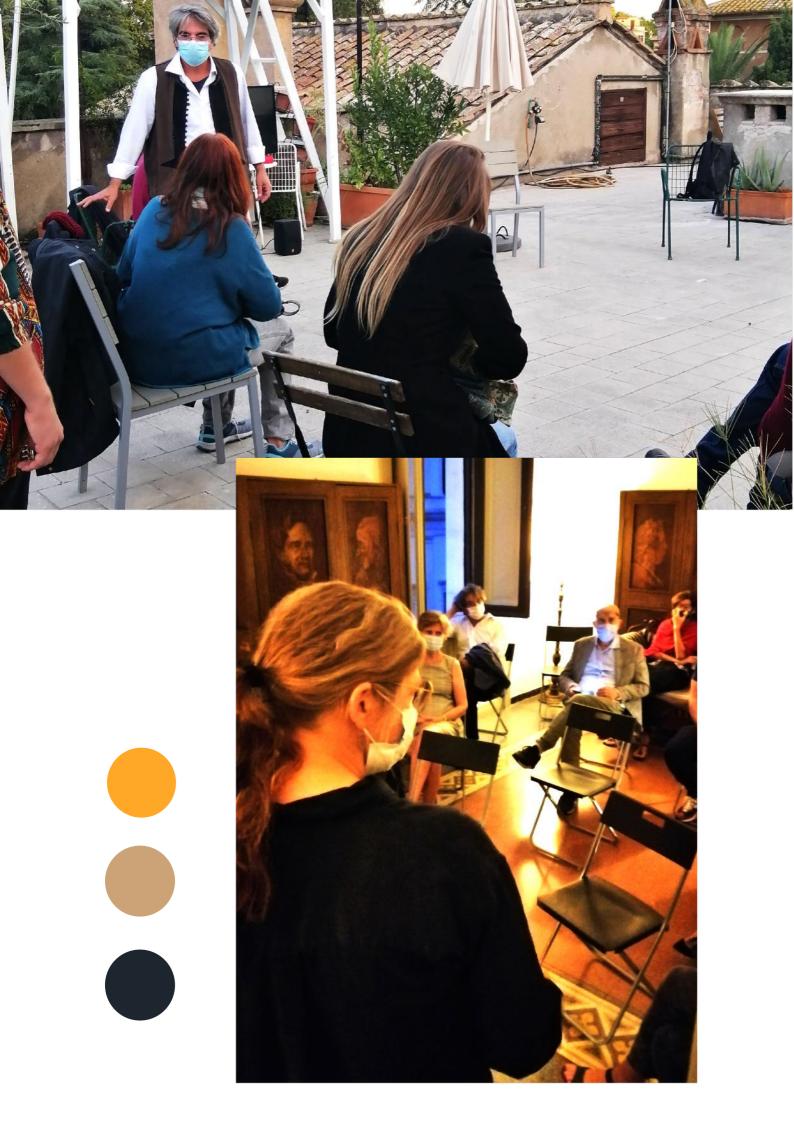
ALT GÅR BRA, Agnes Nedregård and Branko Boero Imwinkelried. Visual artists from Norway presented its visual art project at an event coorganized by the Norwegian and the Finnish Institutes in Rome. The event was held at the Norwegian Institute on the 25th of February.

The event aims to put in dialog the contemporary artistic practice of Alt Går Bra with the work of researchers in the field of Classics. Alt Går Bra will present its visual art project at an event co-organized by the Norwegian and the Finnish Institutes in Rome.

The event aims to put in dialog the contemporary artistic practice of Alt Går Bra with the work of researchers in the field of Classics. Alt Går Bra will discuss its research, conducted at a residency at Circolo Scandinavo, including Pompeian Third Style wall painting and the acanthus leaf as an ornament. Alt Går Bra's projects usually depart from history and are developed in dialog with professionals from different fields. Some of these works include Den Norske Idealstaten, which rewrites Plato's Republic with the people of Norway, and the Mimeograph Project, which rediscovers the printing technology that revolutionized alternative publishing in the 20th century. Alt Går Bra has been funded by the major Norwegian bodies as well as

Alt Går Bra has been funded by the major Norwegian bodies as well as by the British Arts Council and the British National Heritage Fund. To learn more about Alt Går Bra, visit www.altgarbra.org and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCO47PxrRtw







Meet the artists 21.9

CAROLINA HINDSJÖ - Film maker | Sweden
PETER BRANDT - Visual artist | Denmark
ÓSK VILHJÁLMSDÓTTIR - Visual artist | Iceland
LARISA PELLE - Film maker | Finland

Scuola dell'urbanesimo nomade 29.9

Workshop organised in collaboration with Stalker, a collective of artists and architects based in Rome in the frame of the cultural programme of Rome municipality.

Online event celebrating Circolo Scandinavo's 160 anniversary 16.12

Because of the pandemic the Circolo had to postpone the main celebration of its 160 years existence. When reopening the residence in the Autumn it was decided to offer a series of events on-line and in real life when possible, and the first celebration event on-line was held in December.





Unique Nordic Cultural Heritage

In the early 1800s were "all" artists from northern Europe to travel to Rome. Goethe had been there earlier, the Dane Thorvaldsen was there and his countryman, HC Andersen was there.

On 2nd July 1860 the three Scandinavian libraries situated in Rome – Danish, Norwegian and Swedish – formally merged as "Circolo Scandinavo per Artisti e Scienziati".

Since 2006 the Circolo is located in Via della Lungara, in a large, spacious apartment in the stately "Casino di Vigna" from the 15th century as a neighbour to Villa Farnesina and opposite Palazzo Corsini where the Swedish Queen Christina spent the last 35 years of her life in the late 1600.

Programme:

Music: Lucid - Þóranna Björnsdóttir, Reykjavík, Iceland and Federico Placidi, Rome, Italy.

Introduction-Marie Kraft - Director Circolo Scandinavo.

Grieg in Rome-Ingo Arnason - Project manager 160 year celebration.

Poems - Erkka Filander - poet, Finland, AiR December 2020.

Circolo Scandinavo and the Academies in Rome - Frederick Whitling - Historian, Fellow at Villa Lante, Finnish institute in Rome.





Rome is quite, an essay - Ester Wellejus - Film director, Denmark, AiR December 2020.

Poems - Erkka Filander - poet - Finland, AiR December 2020

Projects today - Marie Kraft - Director, Circolo Scandinavo.

Poems - Erkka Filander - poet, Finland, AiR December 2020

Skandinavernes Julesang i Rom 1833 by H.C. Andersen - Ester Wellejus -

Film director, Denmark, AiR December 2020

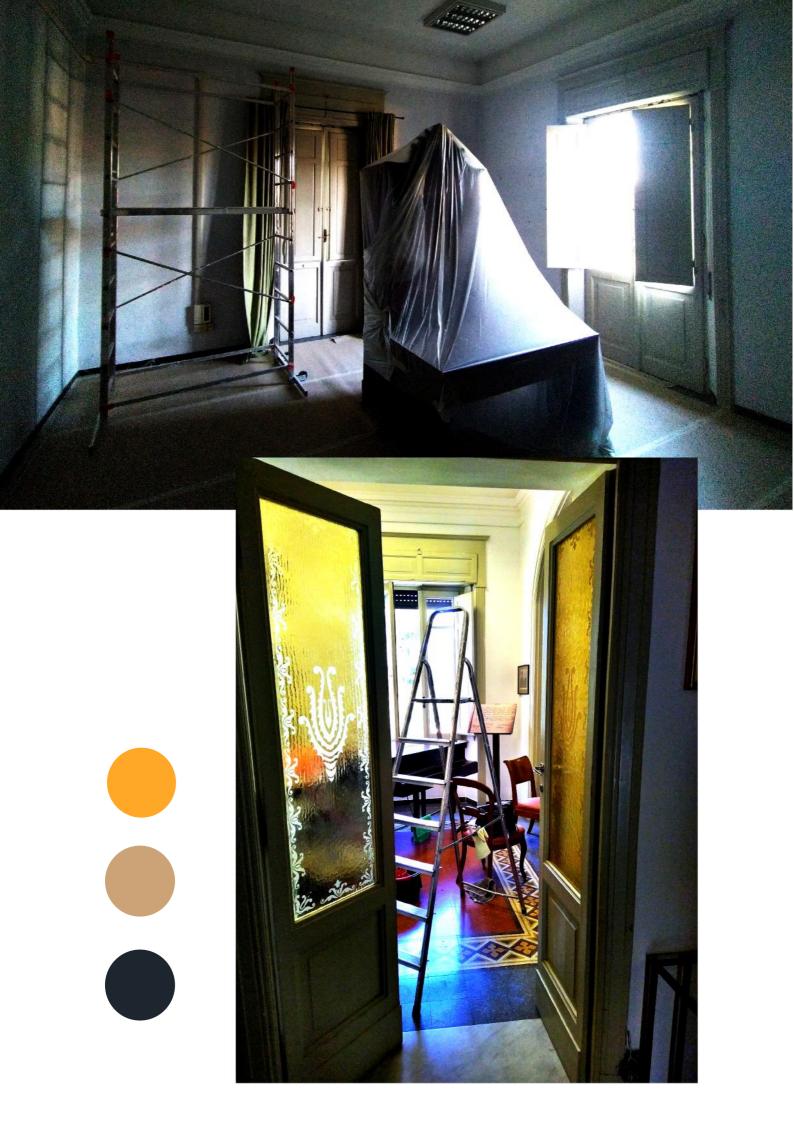
Queen Christina in Rome- Ingo Arnason - Project manager 160 year celebration.

Video performance: La Regina e l'alchimista, Cristina di Svezia e Francesco Borri by Anna Foa e Vittorio Pavo

see the recording of the event here:

https://vimeo.com/493684515







BOARD ACTIVITIES 2020

The board of CS held five board meetings and one annual meeting during 2020. From March the meetings were all held on-line. The general assembly was postponed hoping for a physical meeting in Rome but finally organised on-line in November. Beside the meetings the board had active communication online about the activities of CS. During 2020 the board was continuing its second-year mandate. In the Autumn two of eight members were substituted. The appointed members representing the Nordic embassies in Rome Hilla Okkonen (FI) was replaced by another employee of the Finnish embassy, Ilkka Nordgren (FI) and Sanna Tahvanainen (FI) was replaced by substitute Hanne Herrman (NO).







NEW DIRECTOR

The new Director Marie Kraft (b. 1967, Sweden) was planned to start from 1st of July 2020 but due to the pandemic her arrival was postpone to 1st September to allow her and the former Director to work together for one month. Educated as an architect, Marie Kraft has worked for cultural institutions as well as a freelancer with various architectural assignments. She has also worked as a scenographer for theatre. Among her many projects are restoration and transformation of historical buildings, as well as development of projects around art in urban settings, installations and scenography in public space, cultural events, and performances. With a part-time position at the Swedish institute in Paris during more than twenty years, and several shorter missions at Villa San Michele at Capri and The Baltic centre for writers and translators in Visby, Marie has gained an experience in institutional management and administration of hosting artists and researchers in residence.

Marie's relation to the Italian cultural life started already during her studies in architecture when she developed her last year project in Venice. In recent years Marie has taken part in the organisation of several official cultural events in Italy, assisting the Swedish Embassy in Rome with connections to Swedish artists and Italian collaborators.









ASSISTANT AND INTERNS

Every year CS has had the possibility to receive an inter through Svenska Kulturfonden I Finland. The intern is a precious assistant to the director and Tinja Räsänen was continuing this role until the end of her contract in July. Due to the pandemic the intern programme was cancelled for the rest of the year and CS therefore had to employ an assistant and project manager. The former director Ingolfur Arnasson accepted to assist to the new director on a part-time basis from 1st October. This has been an exceptional but good solution to keep up the activities despite the complications linked to the pandemic.



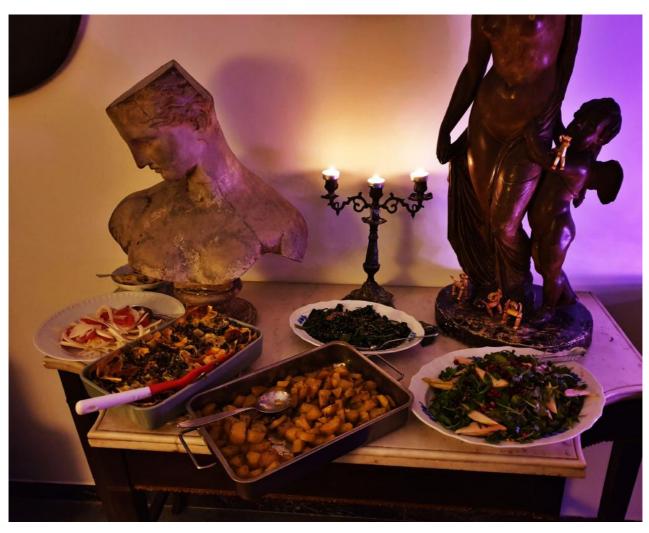




COLLABORATIONS

CS is working for a broader collaboration with both Nordic, Italian and international partners. The participation in three applications to the municipality of Rome and all the projects were accepted and will be developed during 2020-2022. Due to the pandemic the first year became mainly a preparation year but several Nordic artists and researchers could participate in on-line meetings and a three-day walk in Rome in October. We also have several interdisciplinary new collaborations with universities in Italy, Sweden and Iceland and Norway. Our purpose is to open these collaborations to more countries and regions in the Nordics.





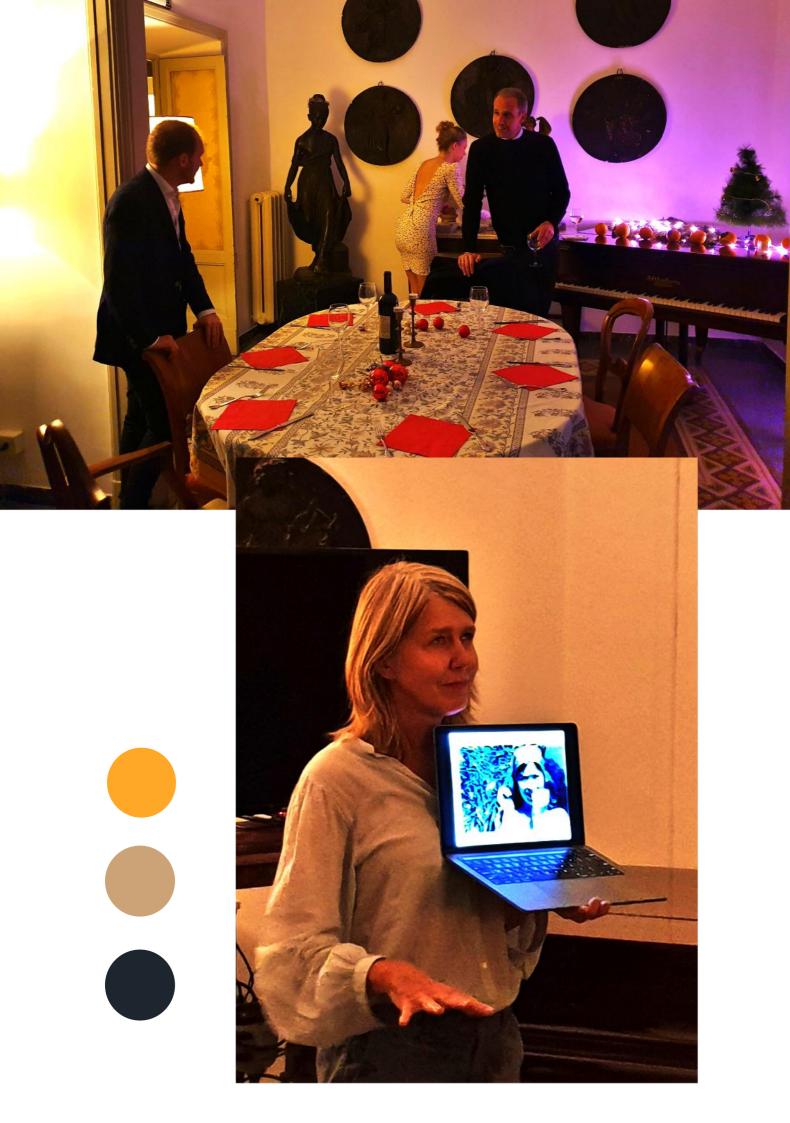




VISITS

All residency months starts with a breakfast meeting where the artists get to know each other, and we go through practical things about the residency. Afterwards the director gives a popular walking tour around the neighbourhood. The walk includes practical tips about living in Rome and important cultural and historical places in the neighbourhood. We also organize visit with the artists-in-residence to museums and foreign Academies in Rome. This year the visits were highly reduced due to the pandemic, but we managed to organise a few visits to the Circolo for the fellows at Danish institute in Rome and artists and scholars within our collaborations with the Italian collective Stalker.













COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The website www.circoloscandinavo.it is our main source of communication, there you can find all information about our activities, interviews with the artists-in-residence and all communication to our members as well as information about the boards administrative work.

We are also active on social media our Facebook page has 3.832 followers, our Twitter account has 211 followers, and our Instagram account has 940 followers. We also send out information about our activities to our mailing list has more than 1.600 subscribers.

Our close collaborators in different projects are important communication channels for us as they publish our information on their own websites and social media. Our communication to the local audience in Rome is helped by our participation in three three-year projects presented in the Cultural programme of Rome municipality, and using all their media channels.









EXECUTIVE BOARD

Permanent members:

Lone Falster, film director DK

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, director IS - Chair

Ilkka Nordberg, October-December

Hilla Okkonen, January-September, Embassy of Finland FI*

Christopher Prescott, director of the Norwegian Institute in Rome NO**

Björn Ross, visual artist DK/SE

Lars Strandh, visual artist NO - Vice-chair

Sanna Tahvanainen, writer Fl

Mia Törnqvist, dramaturg, screenplay writer, translator SE***

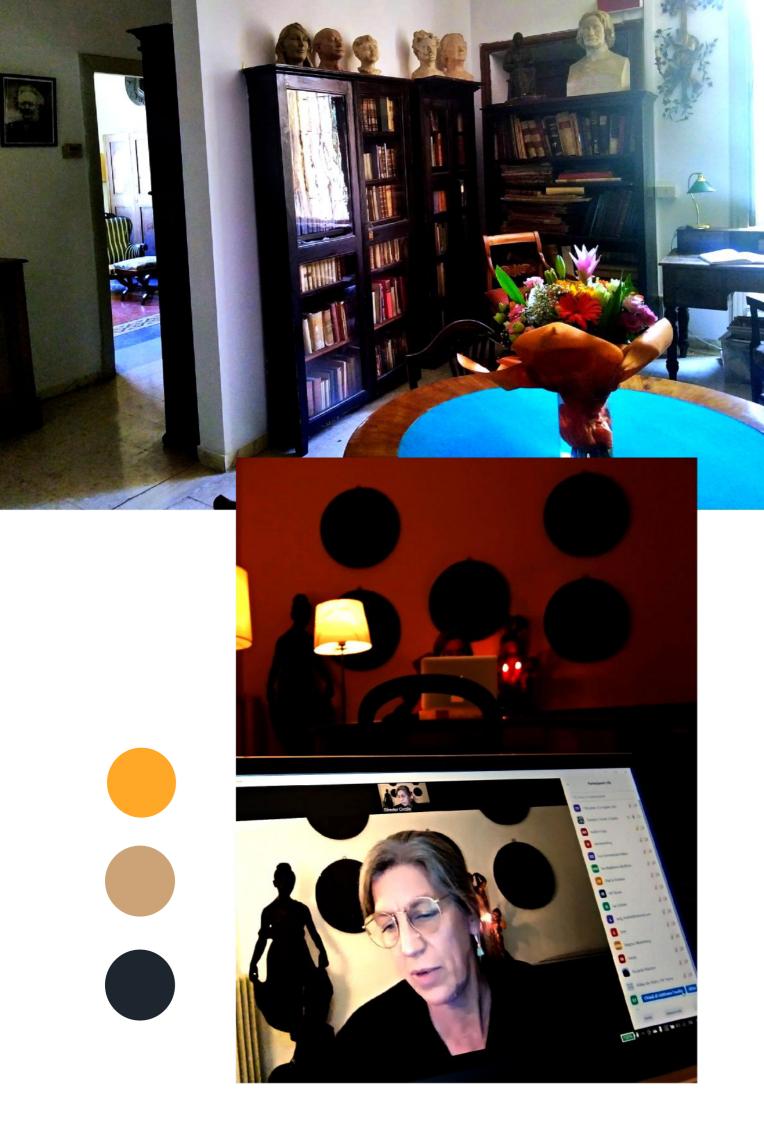
Substitute members:

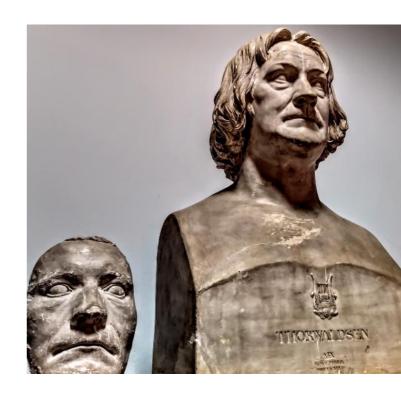
Kari Steinhaus, visual artist NO

Hanne Herrman writer, translator NO.

- *representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome
- ** representing the Nordic Institutes in Rome
- *** representing the Nordic Council of Artists







STAFF

Ingolfur Niels Arnason Director until 30 september Project manager, October-December. Marie Kraft, Director from 1st October.

Tinja Räsänen, Intern, January - July.

MEMBERS

133 Individual members

12 Association/institution members

3 Honorary members



A.I.R 2020

JANUARY

Agnes Nedregård ALT GÅR BRA - Visual artists | Norway

Branko Boero Imwinkelried ALT GÅR BRA - Visual artists | Norway

MARIE STOCKMARR BECKER - Musician | Denmark

PETER BRANDT- Visual artist | Denmark

AUDAR KANTUN - Visual artist | Norway

JOHN SUNDKVIST Painter and essayist | Sweden

MAJ-BRITT ANDERSSON Art historian, researcher, lecturer and writer | Sweden

MADS MYGIND Poet | Denmark

FEBRUARY

ALT GÅR BRA - Visual artists | Norway

HELINÄ HUKKATAIVAL - Visual/Performance artist | Finland

MARGRÉT KRISTÍN SIGURÐARDÓTTIR - Singer-songwriter | Iceland

SUSANNE RINGELL - Writer | Finland

EERO HÄMEENNIEMI - Composer, writer, improvising pianist | Finland

ÚLFUR KARLSSON - Painter | Iceland

ANDERS LARSSON - Actor, playwright and writer | Finland

JANNE TALSTAD - Visual artist | Norway

MARCH

EERO HÄMEENNIEMI - Composer, writer, improvising pianist | Finland

HELINÄ HUKKATAIVAL -Visual/Performance artist | Finland

ÚLFUR KARLSSON - Painter | Iceland

ANDERS LARSSON - Actor, playwright and writer | Finland

SUSANNE RINGELL - Writer | Finland

JANNE TALSTAD - Visual artist | Norway

GEIR EGIL BERGJORD - Visual artist | Norway

SEPTEMBER

PETER BRANDT - Visual artists | Denmark

CAROLINA HINDSJÖ - Film maker | Sweden

LARISA PELLE - Media artist | Finland

ÓSK VILHÁLMSDÓTTIR - Visual artist | Iceland

OCTOBER

ESTHER WELLEJUS - Film director | Denmark

YAMILE CALDERÓN - Visual artist | Sweden

LOTTE TRANE - Writer | Denmark

ÓSK VILHÁLMSDÓTTIR - Visual artist | Iceland

NOVEMBER

ESTHER WELLEJUS - Film director | Denmark

ERKKA FILANDER - Poet | Finland

LOTTE TRANE - Writer | Denmark

DECEMBER

ESTHER WELLEJUS - Film director | Denmark

ERKKA FILANDER - Poet | Finland



STATISTICS

2020

36 AIR MONTHS

	IS 5	NO 8	FI 11	SE 3	DK 9
VISUAL AR	4	8	3	1	2
MUSICA	1		2		1
WRITERS			6	1	3
FILM				1	3

