



# CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

## Boardmeeting

Circolo Scandinavo, Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus Rom

Date: 22/01/2021

Time: 14:00

Location: Zoom Platform

Present: Kolbrun Halldórsdóttir Chair, Lars Strandh vice-chair, Björn Ross, Lone Falster, Hanne Herman, Mia Törnqvist - representing the Nordic art organisations, Dr. Ulf R Hansson Director of the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome - representing the Nordic Institutes in Rome e Ilkka Nordberg - representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome. Ingo Arnason project manager and Marie Kraft Director.

### **1. Opening of the meeting, selection of secretary, welcome to new board members.**

KH was select the chair of the meeting and IA was select the secretary. KH welcomed the new members to their first board meeting and asked all board members to do a short introduction of them self.

The new board members are Hanne Herman writer from Norway, she substitutes Sanna Tahvanaines writer from Finland. Dr. Ulf R. Hansson, Director of the Swedish Institute of Classical Studies in Rome he represents the Nordic Institutes in Rome substituting Christopher Prescott Director of the Norwegian institute and Ilkka Nordberg Deputy Head of Mission, PhD Embassy of Finland, Rome, he represents the Nordic Embassies in Rome, substituting Hilla Okkonen Cultural coordinator Embassy of Finland, Rome.

KH welcomed the new board members and sent a heart-warming greeting to the leaving board members and thanked them for their work for Circolo.

### **2. Update on the general situation at the Circolo.**

MK had sent a written report to the board members and made a short presentation on the matter. The main point is that the situation in Italy and especially in the region of Lazio and in Rome, continues to be under some kind of control. Each region's colour is redefined regularly following a rather complex system of values of contamination, pressure on hospitals etc.

Artists in Residence (AiR)

There have been many cancellations since mid-December, following the different restrictions in the Nordic countries. Some artists have been able to prolong their stay, and we could accommodate three guests' artists that luckily could arrive on a very short notice when other artists cancelled just before their arrival. The situation both in Italy and the Nordic countries is very interchangeable and asks for an important flexibility.

The board discussed different possibilities to affront the cancellations since this is also a big problem regarding Circolo's finances and decided that in case of cancellation the Director should offer residency to all artist that have cancelled their residency until now and to the artist that passed the selection process 2019-2020 but have not been offered residency.

The negotiation with the landlord on reducing the rent has gone to a standstill. The landlord has declared that since they are a National institution, they cannot deviate from the contract. The board discussed the situation and agreed on giving the Director the mandate to do what is necessary so it would be possible to renegotiate the contract and also ask her to evaluate the rent market in Rome with the intention of examining other options.

### **3. Director's project for 2021-2022.**

MK presented the document that she had sent to the board with her vision for the future. She presented the most important parts with the emphasis on the residence premise and the importance on reducing the rental costs. She presented a collaboration project with places outside of Rome with the intent to offer additional residency. The additional residencies will be launched with a separate call. She also talked about collaborations with local cultural institutions, curators, and artists. Three on-going projects have received financing from the city of Rome and are part of the cultural programme of the city for 3 years. (See annex 1)

### **4. Presentation of accounts 2020 and budget 2021 proposal.**

MK presented a draft of the accounts for 2020. The situation is critical because of the cancellations in 2020 and the high rent cost. The support received from the foundations in Denmark and Finland are extremely important for the financial outcome this year.

The board decided that MK, LS and KH will meet online Wednesday 27/01 to discuss the directors' salaries.

The budget for 2021 shows an enormous difficulty if the rent cost stays the same, since the income for 2021 is limited to only four rooms per month instead of seven. MK presented an additional budget draft with a lower the rent cost that demonstrated the importance of reducing the rent cost for the future of Circolo.

KH reminded the board members of the importance of keeping contact with the Ministers for Nordic Co-operation in each country and keep them updated on the situation in Circolo.

The information about the ministers can be found on this website:

<https://www.norden.org/en/organisation/ministers-co-operation-mr-sam>

### **5. Preparation for the next AiR-period and call (Oct.2021 - Sept 2022).**

The board discussed the next AiR year and the prospects of the pandemic. Since CS premises has only four bathrooms, it is safest to offer only four rooms for the AiR period Oct.2021 - Sept 2022. MK informed the board that at least 12 artists have asked to postpone their residency to 2021-2022. MK will write the open Call letter and sent a draft to the board. MK will also send a letter to the artists who applied for the AiR 2020-2021 and ask them to send in a new application.

The board asked MK to send them a letter presenting the external AiR project and the procedure.

## **6. General assembly**

The Board decided to hold The General assembly on 28 April at 18:00. Hoping it will be possible for members to attend it in person nonetheless it is best to plan for it to be an online event. According to the CS status, the election for a new board is possible via email.

## **7. 160 anniversary celebration**

The board asked MK to create a workspace on Slack to inform the board about the upcoming events and organise a special Zoom meeting with the board members that are interested to participate in the preparation for the events.

## **8. AOB**

The Board decided that if MK needs to, she can hire a specialist regarding the renegotiation on the rent contract.

LF asked about the students that had been working as volunteers and due to lack of time MK will send a report to the board.

The board also decided to create a special workspace on Slack dedicated to fundraising and sponsorship.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:15



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## Annex 1.

### **CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO / PROJECT AND PLANS 2021 – 2021**

(Marie Kraft 15 January 2020)

Although plans and projects for the coming years still need to be flexible due to the pandemic, I believe we must define some priorities for our work. We will certainly be forced to change and transform our projects many times, but it probably is more important than ever to create a structure to keep more long-term focus on where Circolo's activities are going. You will find a first plan of priorities in this document and I hope we can use them as a ground for common discussions.

#### **The residence**

In a time where art and culture is under high economic pressure one very important project will be to reduce the general rental costs of Circolo, in order to reduce the costs for the artists in residence (either by offering grants to artists with special needs or to reduce the general artist's participation fee).

This could be achieved in different ways.

- Cancel the contract with Accademia dei Lincei to be able to renegotiate the rent.
- Change location. Move from via Lungara to a new location in Rome. There are many private owned apartments or offices available in the city centre.

From a long-term perspective, a discussion needs to be held on how different locations and configuration of spaces could enhance the activities of the Circolo. I have started a discussion with the Council of Culture of the city of Rome, on the possibility to find a new space for Circolo's residence in the city centre. This could be an interesting collaboration, depending on the political situation of the Municipality and the agenda of the elections in the spring 2021. At the same time, we should continue the research on buying a space, with the first study made by Lars Strand as a starting point.

In addition to the residence in Rome, Circolo will offer residence in other places. The location of these annexes, or residence hubs, will be flexible and depend on collaborations and the general situation in Italy. The call and selection will be managed by the Circolo and in the call for AiR 2021/2022 we could already offer two new locations.

- Several months for 3 to 6 artists and researchers in *Il Molino*, Grosseto (Tuscany).
- Several months for one or two artists in the centre of Naples.

#### **Collaborations with local cultural institutions, curators, and artists.**

Three on-going projects have received financing from the city of Rome and are part of the cultural programme of the city for 3 years. Two of them started with a light version in 2020 and the first year of the last one takes place in January and February 2021. The projects allow the Circolo to collaborate in different ways.

- Nordic artists are invited to work together with groups of researchers or artists on the topic of the programme during their stay in Rome. One grant will allow one Nordic artist every year (2021 and 2022) to suggest a project that will be integrated in the general programme. Circolo will organize a call together with Stalker, coordinators of the programme. The artists' production will be part of the final installation of the Zattera in 2022.
- AiR at the Circolo will be offered to participate in study visits and workshops about topics linked to the projects.
- Nordic artists and designers will be offered to work with Italian craftsmanship. A first collaboration can start with the Ceramic production Francesco di Maio in Salerno.

Together with other European institutions we will participate in several calls for funding by local authorities, the Ministry of culture and EU in 2021.

### **Collaborations with Nordic institutions in Rome**

- Organise an interdisciplinary summer course gathering professional artists, students in art, architecture, heritage and humanities. A collaboration with Spontaneamente, the Nordic institutes in Rome and Roma 3.
- Search for funding and organise an introductory conference and workshop on reuse in art and design (initial funding from Riksbankens jubileumsfond together with Nordic institutes in Rome)
- Nordic filmfest 10 years.

### **160 years celebration**

- Three talks on-line during the spring
  - I. 13 February: Foreign presence in Rome
  - II. Mid-March: Nordic collaborations
  - III. Mid-April: Art, nature and climate change.
- Final celebration event hopefully in situ in the end of June.
- A call for memories, stories and art works related to the Circolo will be launched on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January on our social medias and by email to all members.
- The on-line talks will be registered and published together with texts, images and audio-visual material as a specific 160 years archive on Circolo's website.

In February, we will apply for funding from NRM in the frame of their Nordic talks.

### **Communication**

A general plan for the communication is to work in two parallel directions.

- On one hand we will continue to develop Circolo's own communication channels such as website, social media and contacts with members and direct collaborators by publishing information about Circolo's activities in Rome but also create a specific mail communication directly with members. We will invite the artists and members to interact in different ways. With the 160 years celebration through our social medias and by email, we are asking for stories about the Circolo.
- A second parallel communication strategy will use our collaborations as platforms for visibility. In this way the Circolo and its artists and residence will be visible in festivals, cultural and artistic programs in Italy and abroad through our collaborator's communication channels.