

Minutes from the Board Meeting

Circolo Scandinavo
Skandinavisk Forening i Rom

Date: 03/10/2022

Time: 15.00

Location: Zoom Platform

Attending: Marie Kraft, Mia Törnqvist, Christine Aspelund, Kolbrún Hallórsdóttir, Ulf R. Hansson, Lone Falster, Lars Strandh, Ida Maria Petersen, Charlotte Jansson

Absent: Björn Ross

1. Opening of the meeting and selection of secretary

Kolbrún Hallórsdóttir opens the meeting at 15.03 by welcoming Circolo Scandinavios new assistant, Charlotte Jansson and intern, Ida Maria Petersen. Charlotte will be the secretary for the meeting.

2. Short Introduction of Assistant and Intern

Charlotte and Ida introduce themselves. Charlotte is Circolos assistant for 11 months and is supported by Svenska Kulturfonden. Ida is studying art history in Aarhus, and her two-month internship is an obligatory part of her education.

3. Short Introduction of New premises

Marie Kraft gives an update of the new residence and the progress that have been made. The residence has many benefits in comparison to the

previous place, for example more social spaces which provides the artists and visitors with a great opportunity of social exchange. The landlord has been very helpful and made sure that everything is in order. The current location is in a well-known area and Circolo is situated in a calm, quiet surrounding. At the moment two artists are living in the residence and one more will arrive next Tuesday.

One of the documents that MK sent for the meeting illustrates the changes from the last **residential contract** with the Academy to the recent contract. It becomes apparent that the costual factors e.g., the rent will be reduced for Circolo. MK has been looking for an **additional apartment** in Testaccio that could be an option for Circolo to rent for long term artists. Details will be sorted out in October.

A discussion about sending an **invitation to cultural ministers** for the inauguration follows. Due to the Italian election, there is no cultural minister to contact at the present. A suggestion is to send an invitation to Nordic November to all ministers with a short description of what we are doing. Lone Falster suggest that an invitation to the royal family in Denmark could be sent since they are interested in the art scene.

KH states the need for an **official document for the agenda of the Nordic month** that can be sent. The need to be recognized, seen and heard by the ministers is of outmost importance. MK will be in contact with Annika Söderlund who is aware of the minister's schedule. One of their meetings

could take place in Rome, and an idea would be to organize an official opening of Circolo at the time when the ministers can have their meeting.

4. Air 2022-2023

All four rooms in the residence are covered for the whole year. The list of AiR is however changeable because some artists that got accepted a year ago have changed their plans due to the pandemic. MK will prepare a document showing the proposed allocation of selected artists to the AiR program Oct. 2022 – Sept. 2023.

Discussion follows about the **responsibility of the artists** regarding payments and cancellations. MK will make a proposal for the next meeting regarding the artists responsibility and how to proceed.

5. Update on Administrative and Financial situation

MK gives an overview of the financial situation. The landlord of the previous place is not easy to cooperate with and Circolo is now in an extremely **difficult legal position** for unpaid old rents. MK is in contact with the lawyer. This situation urges CS to apply for more money. An application has been sent to Barbro Osher foundation. The Danish found Ny Carlsberg has offered € 13 000 to help fill in the gaps. Part of project funding covers some over-head costs and other activities. KH paid herself the plane tickets and two nights hotel for her last stay in Rome, and the money can be registered as a donation to Circolo.

6. Campaign for NMR support 2024 and additional support 2023

Annika Söderlund has confirmed that the Nordic Cultural Ministers agreed upon a support to Circolo in 2023 due to the pandemic and the initial plan of 10% cuts in the budget. After the ongoing discussions between the NMR and the Nordic Council, Circolo might receive additional support for 2023. During spring 2023 the Nordic Council of Ministers will discuss the budget and the distribution of support for 2024. A question of how the Nordic states can utilize Circolo more has arisen. One argument for financing could be that Circolo could be the link between humanistic research and art. KH encourages the use of social media such as Instagram and Facebook, where Circolo can show their activities for ministers and make it charming for them.

7. Information on Nordic festival in November

An Excel calendar has been made where all participants fill in their confirmed events. This way it is easy to communicate, and it becomes visible to everyone what the different institutions are doing. A link to the calendar will be sent to the board.

All details regarding the Film Festival are not confirmed yet. A plan is that it will take place on Casa del Cinema the 19th and 20th of November. Circolo will show films about art and artwork together. The venue is to be confirmed. LF will send the name of a new Danish documentary of artists to MK as a suggestion for the Film Festival.

8. Any other questions

The board members discuss their visit to Rome for the upcoming board meeting that will take place the **9th of November** and inauguration of Circolo the **8th of November**. The meeting is adjourned at 16.00.