

CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Date: 08.04.2024

Time: 15.00 - 16.00

Location: Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87162040701>

Attending: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Lars Strandh, Mårten Westö, Morten Kyndrup, Lone Falster, Vera Gjermundsen, Ulf R. Hansson, Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir, Marie Kraft, Silva Hielm

1/ Opening of the meeting

Kolbrún opens the meeting at 15.03.

2/ Selection of a secretary for the meeting

Silva is chosen as the secretary for the board meeting and will take minutes.

3/ General update from the Director

Nordic ministers' money.

Opening Circolos rooms up for renters.

State secretary meeting. Marie had a short meeting with the Swedish State Secretary of Culture and Katja Björklund civil servant at the Swedish Ministry of Culture. Both were positive and understanding. Second of May's meeting of the NMR-K (Nordic Ministers of Culture) will hopefully lead to further decision making.

Marie had a meeting with KLYS's new Chairman, Mårten Sanden. He is willing to help us through national organisations. Will bring CS's situation up with Nordisk Kunstnerråd and discuss how to support CS.

4/ Update on the financial situation (see attached d.14/03./2024):

- Accounts 2023 (in progress)

Marie goes through the accounts and budget sent earlier to board members. Describing the specific project funding and postponed salary taxes.

Evaluation for the artwork has been presented to the Board. Auction-House Brun & Rasmussen estimates that the drawings (Venskabsportrætter) can be sold for the minimum price of € 130.000.

Important to emphasize the fact that CS does not qualify as a museum and does not have the funds to conserve the artwork properly.

- Budget 2024-2025

Different versions of the budget are presented and discussed.

The financial situation is serious and a considerable deficit is shown in the accounts,

- the project grants Circolo is receiving are conditioned, since part of them should be paid to the artists staying in the residency
- the director is not getting paid her salary in full and is personally covering a part of the expenses
- taxes have not been paid in full.

The Board expresses great concern about the situation but decides to submit the annual accounts to the General Assembly after the auditor has reviewed them.

5/ The future of Circolo Scandinavo

- Common Nordic funding - Schedule for Nordic Council of Ministers

Nordic Ministers of Culture will meet 2nd of May. NMR is dealing with further cuts in the Nordic budget, but Icelandic Minister is interested in CS and wants to keep having a dialogue. Discussion with the Nordic ambassadors about writing an open letter signed by them all will be continued.

- Decision regarding selling drawings

The Board has discussed the issue via e-mail and reached a conclusion. The Board has decided to sell the drawings, called The Venskabsportrætter. A contract has been signed with The Auctionhouse Bruun-Rasmussen and the drawings will be auctioned in June.

The Board will put out a press release to introduce the decision, which might spark the interest of Nordic media. Proposed meeting regarding the formulation of a press release; Lone, Marie, and Kolbrún.

Since the predetermined meeting time is over Kolbrún postpones the meeting at 16:09 and calls for the meeting to be continued April 15th at 12.00 – 13.00.

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Meeting continued 15.04.2024

Time: 15.4.2024 kl: 12.00 -13.00

Location: Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88627057604>

Attending: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Lars Strandh, Mårten Westö, Morten Kyndrup, Lone Falster, Vera Gjermundsen, Ulf R. Hansson, Kristín Helga Gunnarsdóttir, Marie Kraft, Silva Hielm

1/ Continuation of the meeting

Kolbrún opens the meeting at 12.04.

2/ Selection of a secretary for the meeting

Silva is chosen as the secretary for the board meeting and will take minutes.

4/ CONTINUES: Update on the financial situation:

Marie explains the proposed accounts of 2023 and budget of 2024. Proposal to take the accounts to the auditor and present the final version to the General Assembly is accepted.

Marie explains the budget for 2024-2025. Kolbrún asks the board to agree on the budget, it is decided by the board.

5/ decision regarding selling drawings

The board discusses Marie's idea of making a fund to secure Circolo's future, the practical aspects of it.

The auction starts on the 10th of June. The money will most likely be delivered in August/September. The Board will consider the idea of a fund to cover emergencies and to support the operation of Circolo's future projects.

6/ Decision about AiR programme 2024

The AiR program has been temporarily discontinued, due to financial difficulties. Hopefully the Nordic Ministers of Culture will discuss further support to Circolo on their meeting the 2nd of May. That, together with the selling of the drawings, will hopefully make it possible to open it up again in some form by September/October.

The AiR program is one of the pillars in Circolo's existence according to the Statutes. A proposal for further development of the AiR program will be worked out by the Board when these factors become clear, and suggested to the General Assembly.

7/ General assembly

The General Assembly is discussed and what to expect from it.

8/ Next board meeting

Silva will create a doodle for the next meeting, planned for the middle of May.

9/ Decision on Director's signature of grant contract (Finnish cultural foundation)

The board decides and allows that the director can sign the contract on Circolos behalf.

10/ Decision on Director's contract (current contract ends 31 August 2024)

Marie would want to know what the Board thinks on this decision before the summer. Discussion continues via email.

11/ Any other business

It is important to send the press release regarding the auction to important Nordic addresses, possible investors, donors, and important ministers. Kolbrún stresses that the Danish might have a bigger interest in the drawings than other Scandinavians. Silva and Marie will collect the mailing addresses, board members will send a list focusing on each country.

Marie mentions Siljes reportage on Circolo.

Kolbrún mentions meeting about the Circolo Scandivano situation in Iceland and how important it is to keep the artists organisations in the Nordic countries informed. Mårten also wants to present our situation in Finland during the writers meeting in Spring. Marie will also go to Venice and talk with the Nordic ministers and officials that will attend the Biennale.

Lastly Marie asks the board to talk and inform the cultural ministers.

Kolbrún closes the meeting at 13:07