

12.01 2021

**Dear members and friends of the EOA!**

The epidemic is still raging in a lot of countries, calling for many victims. But vaccines are distributed now and so a decline if not the end of the crisis is in sight. I hope that you either were able to stay healthy physically and psychically or if not that you recovered quickly like I myself did in June. Should you have lost dear ones I wish you heartfelt consolation. 2020 was for all of us a difficult year.

May 2021 become much better for everyone and also allow an early comeback of all the cultural activities we missed so much during the last months. Some Outsider Art activities were still able to take place in summer and autumn, like the international festival IncontriArt at Circolo MCL in Florence, organized by the MAB Museo Art Brut association of this city, at which also the Nordic film project OUT BY ART was present. Other projects were ready in time for the public but could not open, like the show „Follement drôle – Wahnsinnig komisch“ about humour in psychiatry, a cooperation of the MAHSA in Paris and the Prinzhorn Collection in Heidelberg. Hopefully they are accessible soon. At least the GAIA Museum in Randers was able to add about 600 sqm to their space in December which means more exhibition space and workspace for the artists at GAIA Academy for 2021.

Due to the Corona crisis the EOA has to postpone yet again the next conference. St. Gallen is unable to house the event in May 2021 and unfortunately, we could not find another host either for this month. We are looking for an alternative venue in October 2021 now and keep you informed about this effort. Certain is meanwhile that the conference in May 2022 will take place in Finland, on the topic „New Audiences“.

Unfortunately, with the conference the unique opportunity to meet other members and to network falls away. Therefore, as suggested at the General Assembly in June, we started with the project of Zoom sessions. It began with an event on the 12 of December where I gave a talk about „Integrating Art brut/Outsider Art Into the General Art World – Good Examples“ and chaired a subsequent discussion which was attended by 23 people – a good start, I think. Other Zoom events by members of the board are planned. But we are also open for suggestions and initiatives by members. Please take the chance to get involved and spread the information.

Sincerely,

Thomas Röske  
President of EOA

EUROPEAN**OUTSIDER ART**ASSOCIATION