

EUROPEAN **OUTSIDER ART** ASSOCIATION

MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

June 11, 10 am - 12 pm.

**In connection with the international conference:
Collecting Outsider Art**

**Muzeum Slaskie
Katowice
Poland**

Participating Members:

GAIA Museum Outsider Art (Denmark)
INUTI (Sweden)
Kettuki (Finland)
Masaryk University – Institute for Research in Inclusive Education (The Czech Republic)
Museum Dr. Guislain (Belgium)
Museum im Lagerhaus (Switzerland)
Museum Sammlung Prinzhorn (Germany)
Muzeum Slaskie (Poland)
Ták Gallery (Poland)
Union for Rural Culture and Education (Finland)

By proxy:

Pallant House Gallery/Outside in (United Kingdom)

Individual members:

Mike English (New member)

Conference guests were welcome to take part in the annual general assembly

Short presentation of members participating in the meeting, of the current board members

Marina Giordano (not present), Pierre Muylle (not present), Barbara Safarova (not present), Raija Kallioinen (vice president), Lotte Nilsson-Välímää, Marc Steene (not present for the whole meeting), Thomas Röske (president) and secretary general Anna Noe Bovin.

1 Election of chairman

Thomas Röske

2 Accreditation of the agenda

Approved

3 Statement of the board

The work of the board last year:

Board meeting in Palermo in June in connection with the conference “Heterotopias” and in January in Milan at Galleria Maroncelli 12 kindly hosted by Antonia Jacchia.

The board decided not to apply for another EU project at the moment due to lack of time of the board members but to concentrate on facilitating the flow of information and opportunities to network for the EOA members.

Next board meeting will be in Paris 20. October in connection with the Outsider Art Fair. Possibly EOA will participate with a panel discussion at the fair, and EOA will use the opportunity to invite new members to join EOA.

One of the main topics has been preparing next year’s International Conference, which is going to take place at GAIA Museum in Randers, Denmark. The dates are going to be around the third Week of May. A preliminary program with the exact dates will follow shortly.

The ambition of the board is to lure more people to next year’s meeting. The program will appeal both to the academic branches and to the artist and studio branches of EOA. If possible, there will also be short tours to see points of interest to outsider art in Denmark.

The international meeting is going to be a part of European Capital of Culture 2017; who’s center is located in Aarhus just 40 km south of Randers.

The topic is going to be Outsider Art and Photography and is closely linked to the special exhibition at GAIA Museum “Nice to Meet You Mr. Holbein” by the Finish photographer Pekka Elomaa & The Lyhty Workshop. <http://www.pekkaelomaa.fi/in-english>

In 2018 the conference and annual general assembly is going to be at Pallant House Gallery/Outside In in England.

4. Reports of the interest groups

1. Studios

The group is directed by board members Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa, Pierre Muylle and Marc Steene. The group has made an international survey (online questionnaire via Survey Money) to investigate the needs and wishes of the studios. The group would like to encourage all members to spread it to all studios in their country. England and Sweden has already done it, and the answers are very helpful for the group’s further development.

If members want to send the survey out, here is a text by Jennifer Gilbert at Pallant House Gallery/Outside In that can be used – with links to the surveys:

As part of the Interest Group for Studios for the EOA, Outside In has designed two Survey Monkey questionnaires, one on the EOA and the other on Studio Groups. Please circulate these to any studio groups or organisations you know who might be interested.

The one on the EOA: <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TCPW3QK>>
Studio Group section: <<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TQVVDZY>>

2. Research and collections

The group is directed by board members Barbara Safarova and Thomas Röske. The group is currently working on the idea of a blog. It is planned to publish a newsletter and papers. They could come from conferences but also include new research. The close contact to European Universities and their students (bachelor/master/doctor) could ensure interesting research in the outsider art field and reinforce the European network.

3. Environments

The group is directed by board members Raija Kallionen and Marina Giordano. After the conference in Sicily the interest group for Environments worked actively during summer. Danilo Proietti coordinated small analyses for finding realistic understanding about human and economic resources needed for the database project. The conclusion was that operation can't be voluntary-based; Roberta Trapani is an important key person for planning the structure of environments' role in the database, but she has been very busy and is able to take part to the process only after summer.

Environments' Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OutsiderEnvironmentsEurope/>), edited by Henk van Es is active for sharing information on sites. The other editors of the page are Raija Kallioinen, Minna Haveri and Pavel Konecny. Henk also updates regularly his web-blog Outsider Environments Europe, with rich illustration, links and maps. Promoters of the sites can send tips and ideas to Henk by FB. As well the database by SPACES is willing to continue collaboration with European actors.

The discussion on European Charter of Outsider Environments hasn't continued after the conference in Sicily. There wasn't a clear consensus about advancing the Charter. In the future, it will be dependent on Sicilians' activity if they find channels to European Parliament for getting evaluation if promoting a special Charter might be successful. Or should protecting outsider environments be seen as part of existing cultural and environmental agreements? In fact, it seems that EOA (or our interest group) doesn't have capacity to run a pan-European political process. Rather, it could courage the members to activity in their own countries, for promoting important outsider environments to be protected according to Faro convent or other European agreements, which their governments have ratified and signed.

5. Statement of the secretary

The secretary has had a strong focus on updating memberships/ mailing lists/ membership payments and also asking members for feedback on how to make EOA an even better organisation. The feedback has been mainly more communication and more possibilities to network with other members.

A warm welcome to new members who have joined during 2015:

New member organization:

- House Museum Al Belvedere Pietro Ghizzardi in Boretto, Italy
- Mad Musée in Liege, Belgium
- Mycelium in Paris, France

New individual members:

- Daniel Wojcik, Oregon, USA
- Leszek Macak, Poland
- Miriam Basat, Colorado, USA
- Dr. Elisabeth Telsnig, Austria

6. Approval of the report and accounts

Approved. See appendix.

7. Decision on strategy, activity plan, budget and membership fee

EOA will be continuing as a strong network, meeting once a year

2017 at GAIA Museum, Denmark, about photography and outsider art

2018 Pallant House Gallery, UK and possibly London/Brighton

2019 maybe at INUTI in Sweden or in the Czech Republic

All conferences include also the other aspects/interest groups, so there will be speakers etc. to make sure that the conference is relevant for all members of EOA.

Focus on stronger information flow:

- Blog (Barbara and Thomas)
- Facebook (Raija, Lotte or Anna will be happy to post news from members e.g. about new exhibitions, events and publication – just send 2-3 lines of text in English and a picture)
- Database (Marc). Discussion on how to fund the project. Some of the possibilities are to apply for grants, to ask members to contribute, to fundraise, to offer different levels of visibility or different advantages on the platform to members for a price, to collect money by running marathon etc., to make the project an e-learning platform and integrate it in an EU project. There were no firm conclusions, but the board suggests to keep working on realizing the project and asking members to share ideas on the subject.

Focus on new members:

This will be achieved by strengthening the information about EOA, and also by asking current members to invite other organizations and personal contacts to join. There will be an extra effort to make publicity for EOA during the Outsider Art Fair in Paris in October 2016.

Membership fees 2017

We will keep the same level of the membership fees as in 2016 (75 Euro for organizations/30 Euro for individual membership). It is crucial that members remember to pay their membership fee. Anna will send reminders and invoices for 2015 and 2016 to those who have not yet paid.

Strategy, activity plan, budget and membership fee was approved by the general assembly.

8. Election of representatives in the board

Reelected members of the board for the next two years (concordantly):

Thomas Röske (president)

Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa

Marc Steene

Current board members continuing their period:

Raija Kallioinen (vice president)

Pierre Muyelle

Marina Giordano

Barbara Safarova

9. Election of auditor

Reelection of Nita Lorimar, Sweden.

10. Any other business

A new Nordic network started in November 2015. The partners are Kettuki and Kaarisilta from Finland, INUTI from Sweden, List An Landamæra from Iceland and GAIA Museum Outsider Art from Denmark. The partners met and worked together at INUTI in Stockholm in May. It was a very good experience for both the artists and the art trainers. In the next application, Nordic Outsider Art (NOA) will try to make it possible for all the partners to participate and to give workshops in connection with the international conference and AGA for EOA at GAIA Museum in May 2017. In addition, a documentary by the Swedish filmmaker, Sven Blume, and research into ethical guidelines for studios by Minna Haveri is going to be a part of the application.

Questions addressed to the board:

What should be the consequence for members who don't pay their membership fee?

Muzeum Slaskie is planning a conference in November 2017 on the topic outsider art and mentally illness. They would like suggestions for speakers from EOA.

Finally: A big and warm "Thank You" to Muzeum Slaskie, Sonia Wilk and her wonderful staff for the great arrangement in connection with both the tours, the conference and the assembly.