

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD - April 2013

It is finally spring in Europe – and a new season for Outsider Art as well. The annual Outsider Art Fair in New York at the beginning of the year was a great success, not at least because of the attractive new location in Chelsea. In Berlin a private initiative founded the incorporated society “Outsider Art in Berlin” to pursue the idea of a specialized exhibition space or even a museum in the city. And all over Germany the idea of open studios is still growing; a new trend is that more and more of them open professional exhibition and gallery spaces.

Meanwhile, the little sapling that is our Association is growing steadily; currently we can count 47 members from 18 different countries. Networking of open studios as well as Outsider artists and museums, gallerists and academics interested in Outsider Art seems to be more important than ever. We all should try to spread information about our organization to make it more and more useful within the field.

European Culture Programme

Unfortunately we didn't get the funding from the European Culture Programme that we applied for last year. It was not the fault of the secretariat and the board of EOA who put a lot of effort and diligence into the application. We learned that the decision was close – which gives us optimism for another try in the near future. This time we want to aim for another two years project funding in conjunction with the topics of our next General Assemblies – which we should discuss at our coming meeting in Heidelberg.

Annual General Assembly and Interest Groups

The next Annual General Assembly will take place on the 25th of May 2013 following the conference “Ethical Aspects around Outsider Art” organized by the Prinzhorn Collection Heidelberg for the 24th and 25th of May (cf. the information on our website and the Prinzhorn Collection website). It is still possible to take part in the conference; please spread the word.

At this event, for the first time we will coordinate four EOA interest groups, also open to every conference delegate. They will focus on „Environments“, „Research“, „Open Studios“, and „Collecting and Exhibiting“. The interest groups should enable a more steady and concentrated collaboration by members around topics of general interest. It would be helpful for us if you could let us know beforehand which group(s) you are planning to attend.

Secretariat

Lack of funding makes a reorganization of the secretariat necessary. The GAIA museum is no longer able to support the EOA in the same selfless way as before. The secretariat and the maintenance of the website will still be coordinated by Maria Bach in Randers, but the secretariat's functions will be shared with Thomas Röske and Raija Kallioinen. We should also discuss the consequences of this at the Annual General Assembly.

Good Reasons for Membership

The number of EOA members is still quite small, and unfortunately only a few of us have paid our annual membership fee so far. The fee is quite reasonable if you consider that it enables all the members of your organization to take part in the yearly conference for half the price and share the benefits of the networking our website and the annual meetings offer. Please show us you care by promptly paying your membership fee and recommending the EOA to all your contacts!

EUROPEAN **OUTSIDER ART** ASSOCIATION

Election of the board

Board members sit in the board for 2 years. Board members can be re-elected, although 4 years in a row is the maximum.

Current board members continuing their period:

- Thomas Röske, Prinzhorn Collection (DE) / elected for 2012-13
- Elisabeth Gibson, Project Ability (UK) / elected for 2012-13

Current board members who can be re-elected for one year:

- Raija Kallioinen, Union for Rural Culture and Education (FI) / elected for 2010 and for 2011-12
- Anna Yarkina, Moscow Outsider Art Museum (RU) / elected for 2010 and for 2011-12

Current board members stepping down:

- Maria Sol Alvarez, Debajo del Sombrero (ES) / elected for 2010-11 and for 2012-13

Board members having 4 years in a row and obligatory will step down:

- Dorte Eiersbo, GAIA museum (DK) / elected for 2009-10 and for 2011-12
- Carine Fol, Art et Marges (BE) / elected for 2009-10 and for 2011-12

New board members – do you want to take part?

5 new members will be able to stand in the election of the board of EOA. Raija Kallioinen and Anna Yarkina will be candidates for continuing as board members for one more year.

If you are interested in taking an active share in the associations future steps and the development of our European network, you now have the opportunity to become a member of the board. Or maybe you know someone who could be a good candidate.

Please send an email to Maria Bach, maria.bach@randers.dk – no later than the 8th of May.

Renewal of membership

Find attached the invoice for your annual membership fee, 75 euro in year 2013. For being able to vote at the AGM in Heidelberg, please make sure that you pay your membership fee before the meeting.

Hope to see you in Heidelberg!