

Dear EOA Members!

The year 2017 started well for Outsider Art, in spite of many political and social worries worldwide – or maybe because of them? „Outside In“ for example, a charity aiming at „providing a platform for artists who find it difficult to access the art world“, which started ten years ago at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester, became self standing with the beginning of the year. It's director, Marc Steene, formerly also executive director of the gallery, is member of the EOA board for several years already. The new edition of the New York Outsider Art Fair had more booths than ever and with it Christie's New York did, for the second time only, an auction exclusively of Outsider Art. Many Outsider Art institutions all over the world are flourishing as well, other art museums are preparing exhibitions including Outsider Art, even the Metropolitan Museum in New York announced that it will have an Outsider Art show next year. Students write more Bachelor, Master or Ph.D. papers on Outsider Art than ever, conferences on Outsider Art will take place at many places in Europa and overseas, including the one in Randers/Denmark prepared by the EOA for the 17-20 May.

This will be on Outsider Art photography, a topic which became more important over the last twenty years with regards to some classics, like Eugene von Bruenchenhein or Miroslav Tichý, but also to a lot of new talents. As part of the program around Aarhus being European City of Culture 2017, Gaia Museum Outsider Art in nearby Randers is preparing the exhibition „Nice to Meet You, Mr. Holbein“ by Pekka Elomaa & The Lyhty Workshop. GAIA's director Anna Noe Bovin who is EOA's secretary general since 2015 hosts the EOA conference at her museum offering a whole program of workshops and a tour to Aarhus (including the fabulous Museum Ovartaci which unfortunately will soon have to leave its original premises) before the lectures start on 19. May followed by the Annual General Assembly on the 20. May. (See the preliminary program).

This event will as usual give ample opportunity to meet other members of and people interested in the EOA, talk to them, exchange experiences, forge shared projects etc. In our times, where on the one hand minorities are threatened even by state powers and on the other hand the art establishment tries to make the most out of Outsider Art for its own sake it is more important than ever that we, the experts of the field, stand together and jointly speak up for those who cannot do it on their own. For this reason, it is also important that you further campaign for joining the EOA in your neighbourhood and among associated institutions. Let our organisation grow so that we gain more and more influence for the benefit of Outsider Artists and their work. The projected new EOA website will also serve this purpose - please have a look at the additional information by Marc Steene.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to welcome the new members who joined during 2016:

New member organisations:

Kunstnerhuset Karavana, Denmark
Association des Amis des Chomo, France
CAIB, Italy
ActionSpace, England
Kunstkolan LINNEA, Sweden
Copenhagen Outsider Art Gallery, Denmark
The Grand Baz'Art, France
ROHLING, Switzerland

New individual members:

Mike English, Scotland

Anna Yarkin, Russia

Karin Verboeket, The Netherlands

Marion Scherr, England

I hope to see you in Randers!

Kind regards

Thomas Röske

President of the European Outsider Art Association

EUROPEAN **OUTSIDER ART** ASSOCIATION

Preliminary program for:

EOA CONFERENCE “OUTSIDER ART PHOTOGRAPHY” AND ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

DATES: 17.-20. May 2017

PLACE: GAIA Museum Outsider Art, Lene Bredahls Gade 10, 8900 Randers C. Denmark

17. May 9 am - 3 pm	Workshops for artists and trainers
18. May 9 am - 7 pm	Tour to Aarhus - European Capital of Culture 2017
19. May 9 am - 7 pm	Conference with talks and discussion and interest groups
19. May 7 pm - 10 pm	Conference dinner and networking
20. May 10 am -12 pm	Annual General Assembly



Toni, Kari, Pertti and Sami” & “Anastasia” by Pekka Elomaa and the Lyhty Workshop.
The full program and practical information will be sent out in March.