

Statement of the board

27.3.2012 / Raija Kallioinen, Vice President / Maria Bach, Secretariat Manager

Dear members of the EOA,

Happy spring time to you all!

The European Outsider Art Association is now running on its 3rd year, and we are pleased to announce that 43 organisations from 18 different countries have joined the association as members. This is a great establishment for a volunteer based foundation, and it confirms our shared need to strengthen the domain of outsider art on a global scale. Common for all members is their work to promote the artistic creation of people who work outside the mainstream art world system, in practice and presentation. The strength of the association is the broadness of the member organisations' different approaches to the field. EOA represents the small and the big, the known and the unknown, and thus an interdisciplinary network of where the members can learn from each other's practices and build partnerships across borders.

The challenge of EOA is to continue its establishment and develop its services by the support of financial funding. The association received a legal registration number in November last year, which makes it eligible for applying for grants within the European Union. The aim is to apply the European Culture Programme, strand 2, in September 2012. For the running year we hope to receive funding so we can advance the website of EOA as an overall communication tool for the members as well as developing different services.

We hope that the members of EOA will continue to support and take part in our work, have faith in our establishments and maintain your membership in 2012. Therefore, we also hope to see many of you at the coming Annual General Assembly, which will be held at:

Museum Dr Guislain in Ghent, Belgium, the 27th of April – 10 am – 12 pm.

– in connection with the symposium; Outsiders on the Map, the 26th of April (for the programme and more information on the symposium, see; www.outsiderartassociation.eu)

Status of the Association

New President

At first we regret to inform that Professor Colin Rhodes has decided to step down as President of the Association. This is due to his new obligations in Australia, as well as the long distance. On behalf of all the members, warm thanks to Colin. His role when forming the principles for new European networking has been dynamic and constructive. Colin's vision was to build a comprehensive and varying network for outsider art, including museums, collections, ateliers, studios, researchers, art-environment protectors etc. His broad-minded position was to open the doors, welcome both the well-established as well as the newcomers to take part in the Association's work. We are grateful that he has promised to continue to be supportive of the Association and to help us gaining our future aims.

For this reason we have been looking for a new candidate for the next President of EOA. We are now happy to inform that Mr. Thomas Röske, director for the Prinzhorn Collection, has agreed to stand in the election of the board at the coming general assembly in Ghent,

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The continuing board members have agreed to point at Thomas Röske as the coming President. The new board will be appointed by the general assembly.

Honorary member

John Maizels, editor of Raw Vision Magazine has been invited to be honorary member of EOA, due to his support in disseminating the events and activities of the association.

AGM and board meetings

The last Annual General Assembly was held in Helsinki the 18th of June, 2011. In 2011 there have been 2 board meetings, one in Helsinki and one in Münster. The board members have discussed the next steps towards establishing the Association as an information channel, finding ways for project funding as a European organisation and debating on ways to support good practices for international co-operation.

Outsider Art Past Forward

The co-operation project Outsider Art Past Forward, funded by Culture Program by EU, is one result of the EOA-networking. In the project there has been international conferences in Helsinki and in Münster in 2011. We are pleased that so many of you participated in these events. Mutual interaction has given inspiration and new contacts for all of us. The third symposium of this project will be held the 26th of April 2012, at Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent, Belgium. Let's meet there again!

The project has formed the content of a publication with 60 presentations of European organisations working to promote the artistic skills and expressions by marginalised groups, in practice and presentation. The book 'On the Map - exploring European Outsider Art' will be released at the symposium in Ghent. For more information about the project, see the project website: www.outsiderartpastforward.eu

Upcoming activities in 2012

April 26th-27th: Symposium and AGM, Museum Dr Guislain

We hope that many of you wish to join us and have an active say in the future achievements of EOA. For more information, see www.outsiderartassociation.eu - under Events.

June 13th-14th: Contact seminar

Members of EOA will be invited to take part in a networking seminar held at GAIA Museum Outsider Art in Denmark. Here you will get information on the funding possibilities of the EU Culture Programme, take part in project idea brainstorms and have the opportunity to develop concrete sketches for partnership projects. GAIA Outsider Art Museum will send out detailed information on the event.

Membership 2012

Find attached the invoice for your annual membership fee, 75 euro in year 2012. For being able to vote at the AGM in Ghent, please make sure that you pay your membership fee before the meeting.

75 euro is not very much for the member organisations but for EOA the fees are the only income. Our official registration was achieved in November, 2011, which meant we were not eligible to apply for EU funding. This year we have the legal status and enough members in terms of the required criteria for applicants. Our aim is to attain financial compensation for services of the secretariat, supporting the travel expenses of the board members and developing the website and general guidance and service for the members.

Individual members – welcome to join!

The association is now open also for individual members for an annual fee of 30 euro. If you know artists, art researchers, critics or anyone with an interest in and devotion to the promotion of outsider art, please inform them. They are warmly welcome to join this network. An individual member will get the newsletters, information on activities and invitations to AGMs, although they will not have the right to vote. They are also welcome to send releases (in pdf form) on exhibitions, events etc. for announcement on EOA's website.

To get an individual membership, send an email to an email to EOA's secretariat: info@outsiderartassociation.eu

AGM, Ghent, 2011

Election

Board members sit in the board for 2 years. Half of the present board is allotted to sit 1 year to open up for a continuous turnover; all board members can be re-elected, although 4 years in a row is the maximum.

Colin Rhodes (AU) and Richard Bennaars (NL) has informed they will step down as board members.

Current board members:

Raija Kallioinen, Vice President (FI)

Dorte Eiersbo, Auditor (DK)

Carine Fol (BE)

Anna Yarkina (RU)

Maria Sol Alvarez (ES)

Thomas Röske, director for the Collection Prinzhorn, has agreed to stand in the election.

The board is open for 3 elected board members. Member organisations are expected to announce their candidates for the election before April 2nd, 2012. Please, send your suggestions to Maria Bach: maria.bach@randers.dk

In the election voting by proxy is possible.

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For those who are interested to stand in the election of the board, it's good to know that the board will have 1–2 meetings per year. Between the meetings the board will collaborate via e-mail, and each member should be willing to work voluntarily for the aims of the association. There won't be any compensation paid for the travel expenses to the board meetings at this stage. The organisation nominating their candidate should take responsibility of the travelling costs until the economical situation of the Association will be stronger.

Proposals

Proposals for the agenda of the general assembly must be sent before April 2nd, 2012, to: maria.bach@randers.dk.

The general assembly will be held by turns in the different member countries. We are interested in any proposals for the location of the next general assembly in 2013. If your organization is going to arrange a conference, event or exhibition of international interest before the exit of August 2013, this could be an opportunity to host the next assembly.

Agenda and audit

The agenda of the AGM will be sent out the 3rd of April, 2012, together with the audit and accounts of 2011.

Dissemination of events

Networking and informing via EOA

If you wish disseminate your activities, exhibitions, conferences etc. throughout Europe please send your information (only pdf files are accepted) to; maria.bach@randers.dk. This will then be added to the website; www.outsiderartassociation.eu

On Facebook you can share links of your events on outsider art.

Newsletters from EOA will from this year be sent to you twice a year.

Future networking events will be disseminated both on the website, Facebook and e-mail announcements.

Take an active share in EOA's development!

We'd like to remind you that EOA is a democratic association where all members have a say. If you have any idea to how the association could promote European collaboration between the members, please let us know.

Any comments or questions to this statement can be sent to:

Raija Kallioinen, Vice President
raija.kallioinen@mssl.fi

Maria Bach, Secretariat Manager
maria.bach@randers.dk