

MINUTES - ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015
June 1, 6-8 pm.

In connection with the international conference:
Heterotopias – Outsider Environments in Europe

Castellammare del Golfo
Teatro Apollo
Corso B. Mattarella 15

Participating Members:

A-Konst (Sweden)
Autour de la Cathédrale de Jean Linard (France)
Kettuki (Finland)
Museum im Lagerhaus (Switzerland)
MADMusée/Creahm (Belgium)
Masaryk University – Institute for Research in Inclusive Education (Tjeckoslovakia)
INUTI (Sweden)
ITE Museum (Finland)
GAIA Museum Outsider Art (Denmark)
Osservatorio Outsider Art (Italy)
Pallant House Gallery/Outside in (United Kingdom)
Union for Rural Culture and Education (Finland)

By proxy:

Museum Sammlung Prinzhorn (Germany)
ABCD Art Brut (France)

Individual members:

Rita Ferlisi (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, Pierre Muylle, Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa, Marc Steene, Barbara Safarova (not present), Raija Kallioinen (vice president), Thomas Röske (president, not present) and secretary general Anna Noe Bovin).

1 Election of chairman

Raija Kallioinen

2 Accreditation of the agenda

Approved

3 Statement of the board

2014 was a successful year for Outsider Art worldwide. The Outsider Art Fair in Paris (a branch of the fair in New York) is now established. The next is in October 2015. Australia had their first international conference on outsider Art. More courses, exam papers and PhDs on Outsider Art than ever before at European Universities.

The work of the board last year:

EOA conference in Paris on "Curating Outsider Art"

The 25 th. anniversary exhibition for Raw Vision as a bonus to this event.

In 4.-5- September there was a board meeting in London and the president Thomas Röske has been meeting board members and secretariat in Denmark, England and Belgium mainly to develop the application to EU to support European Outsider Arts activities.

The newly appointed director of GAIA Museum Outsider Art, Anna Noe Bovin, is also the new general secretary of European Outsider Art Association starting with the board meeting in Palermo 28. May 2015.

3. a Reports of the interest groups

1. Studios

The group was directed by board members Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa, Pierre Muylle and Marc Steene. There were only few participants, probably due to the topic of the conference, so the group was focusing on how to get more involvement and on preparing for next year's program. It was decided to do an international survey (online questionnaire) to investigate the needs and wishes of the studios. Also there is going to be a facebook page for studios like the one for environments.

There were discussions on the definition of studios and what the aim of the studios is. It was agreed that the board members responsible for Studios would create a description of what is meant by the term 'studio' in relation to the EOA which would help further promote this interest group. This discussion is interesting and will continue in the next years.

Symposiums, international visits and exchange of artists between different studios was an idea the group would like to realize.

The general assembly in Chichester in 2017 will focus on the Artist. Liege in 2018 will focus on Studios.

2. Research and collections

The group was directed by board members Barbara Safarova and Thomas Röske. The group had about 15 participants. Barbara and Thomas introduced the idea of a blog for the interest group cared for by them which they want to install within the next three months. It should not only present news about important exhibitions and literature in the field of our interest but also publish the papers presented at past EOA conferences and new papers (i.e. examine papers) which should be peer reviewed beforehand by chosen members of the interest group.

Questions of common interest were discussed, like terminological differences between countries, how to raise the academic level of the field and others.

3. Environments

The group was directed by board members Raija Kallionen and Marina Giordano and had rich discussions of the draft "*Hypothesis of a European Charter for the Recognition and Protection of Outsider Environments*". Everybody appreciated the work which was done by the Osservatorio Outsider Art for the draft, and agreed the necessity to collaborate internationally for strengthening awareness about outsider environments and for achieving common will in societies to protect important sites. It should be discussed also about lighter and even more effective ways to awaken awareness of outsider environments and their value as cultural heritage. One possibility might be international petitions for the environments which are most remarkable and in danger to be destroyed.

The Faro Convention was also a big part of the discussions. It would be important to take part to national culture policies for getting the Faro Convention to be ratified in each country, and understood outsider environments belonging to the field of that convention.. As well, it would be good to get connections to European Cultural Network HEREIN which is an official pan-European platform to develop the policies dealing with convents of cultural heritage.

The group discussed a database which should widely present European outsider environments. It was seen as a very practical first step for awakening recognition of the sites. (See appendix 1 - Resume).

4 Approval of the report and accounts

Approved (presented by Nita and Anna).

5 Decision on strategy, activity plan, budget and membership fee

Marc Steene and Pierre Muylle presented the plan for the EU application – (see appendix 2 – EU Project).

Raija Kallioinen presented the strategy and activity plan:

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

2016 in Katowice about collecting (autumn).

2017 in Chichester about contexts of art/artists

2018 in Liege about studios

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.

Next year's conference will be in autumn instead of spring in order to integrate it with the EU Project. This was approved by the assembly.

Focus on stronger information flow:

Newsletter (Thomas, Raija and Anna)

Blog (Barbara and Thomas)

Facebook (Anna and Raija will be happy to post news from members e.g. about new exhibitions, events and publication – just send a 2-3 lines of text and a picture)

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.

Economy:

Anna presented the budget (See appendix 3 - Finances)

We will keep the level of the membership fees (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 2014 and 2015 to those who have not yet paid.

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

6 Election of representatives in the board

Reelected members of the board for the next two years:

Raija Kallioinen

Pierre Muyelle

Marina Giordano

Barbara Safarofa

Current board members continuing their period:

Thomas Röske

Lotte Nilsson-Välimaa

Marc Steene

7 Election of auditor

Reelection of Nita Lorimar

8 Any other business

Addresses to the board:

Daniel from Chatedral Linard: about the idea of the digital platform, who is the target group – members of the EOA, tourists, etc.?

Monica from Museum in Lagerhaus: would be a good thing to cooperate with the website mentioned by Gabriele Mina on the conference in Messina.

Nita: suggest a structure with minimal information and instead using links and thereby create an easy map with high accessibility and the ability to constantly evolve.

Appendix 1 – Resume

Environments

The group was directed by board members Raija Kallionen and Marina Giordano.

The group had rich discussions of the draft “*Hypothesis of a European Charter for the Recognition and Protection of Outsider Environments*”, and the discussion continued also during all conference days.

Everybody appreciated the work which was done by the Osservatorio Outsider Art for the draft, and agreed the necessity to collaborate internationally for strengthening awareness about outsider environments and for achieving common will in societies to protect important sites. One concern was that it might be too demanding and slow for small organizations without proper funding and staff to handle a process which aims to a European-wide Convention approved by European Council and ratified by the governments of EU’s member states. This was mentioned also in Henk van Es’s “general remarks”, which were sent to the group. But no doubt that the draft was excellent and the debate will continue to develop the common principles expressed in the Hypothesis.

It should be discussed also about lighter and even more effective ways to awaken awareness of outsider environments and their value as cultural heritage. One possibility might be international petitions for the environments which are most remarkable and in danger to be destroyed. The Faro Convention was also a big part of the discussions. It would be important to take part to national culture policies for getting the Faro Convention to be ratified in each country, and understood outsider environments belonging to the field of that convention. Clearly there are a lot of possibilities in this. As well, it would be good to get connections to European Cultural Network HEREIN which is an official pan-European platform to develop the policies dealing with convents of cultural heritage. Maybe Osservatorio could take those connections for getting response to the idea of the European Charter?

It would be valuable if Osservatorio will continue to collect wider feedback how to develop the idea of the Charter. Maybe the general support by EOA’s member organizations for the idea will strengthen during the discussion, or there will be found some other routes than European Council to develop effective tools for recognition and protection. If there are exact wishes for EOA how our network should act, the proposal can be given by a member organization to the next general assembly according our statutes.

The group discussed also about database which should widely present European outsider environments. It was seen as a very practical first step for awakening recognition of the sites. In the discussion there was shared information of the websites, blogs and databases which already exhibit the sites and with whom it would be useful to collaborate more keenly throughout Europe – especially mentioned the only English forums: weblog by Henk van Es and the SPACES Archive in USA. It was wished that Osservatorio would send the links of all existing platforms to the participants of the discussion.

It was shared a common interest to create a new European database of outsider art environments. A lot of expectations were focused to a project application by EOA’s five member organizations to EU’s *Creative Europe* program. Danilo Proietti expressed his interest to take part to plan the database included to the project application.

EU-Project 2016-2018

Organisational facts and questions

- Larger scale cooperation projects have a duration of 48 months, with a maximum grant of € 2 000 000
- At least 6 Countries are needed: Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Great Britain, Italy – additionally: France? Finland?
- Deadline application: 1 October 2015
- Deadline for all parts of the application: 1 September 2015
- Who writes which part?
- Who puts the paper together and unifies it? Could someone EOA pays for in Randers do it?

Content

- Website with mapping museums, studios etc. as the main feature:
 - Designer (chosen by Marc and Pierre)
 - Fed by all participants (Italy and Finland for environments)
 - Including texts (simple language?) about Outsider Artists
 - Including films about Outsider Art (help by Barbara?)
- Building up a specialized library in Liège:
 - Fee for commercial members/users?
- Newsletter:
 - Done by Barbara and Thomas
- Three conferences:
 - Autumn 2016 Katowice about Collecting Outsider Art
 - Autumn 2017 Chichester about contexts of Outsider Art
 - Spring 2018 Liège about Studios
- Traveling Exhibitions:
 - 2017 ff. about inventorising historic collections of psychiatric art
 - 2017 ff. Cultural Capital City Randers

Appendix 3 - Finances

Expected income	
Membership fee 2014	600
Membership fee 2015	3.475
Total income	4.075

Costs	
Conference 2015	-2.000
Funding the secretariat	-5.000
Printing postcards	-150
Total costs	-7.150

Balance	
31.12.2014	3.912
Expected income	4.075
Costs	-7.150
Expected balance 31.12.2015	837