

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

May 20, 10 am – 12 pm

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

**GAIA Museum Outsider Art
Randers
Denmark**

Short presentation of members participating in the meeting and of the current board members:

Board:

Marina Giordano (not present), Barbara Safarova (not present), Raija Kallioinen (vice president), Lotte Nilsson-Välismaa, Marc Steene, Thomas Röske (president) and secretary general Anna Noe Bovin.

Board member Pierre Muylle decided to step down last year and was not present.

Participating Members:

Tak Gallery
Museum Dr. Guislain
Le Grand BAZ'ART
Museum in Lagerhaus
Kettuki
Inuti
Art Obert Sinia
Art et Marges Museum
Museum Sammlung Prinzhorn
Outside In
Union for Rural Culture and Education
A-Konst
Mad Musée
Næstved Kulturforening
Geyso 20
Kunsthhaus Kannen
GAIA Museum Outsider Art

By proxy:

ITE Museum
Kaarisilta
Museum Junkerhaus Lemgo
Open Art Studio – Masaryk University

1 Election of chairman

Thomas Röske was elected as chairman.

2 Accreditation of the agenda

Approved.

3 Statement of the board

Thomas Röske talked about the events of 2016. Among other things the participation of EOA's board in the Outsider Art Fair in Paris. There was a space next to RAW Vision, where the board presented the organisation and made a photo happening. The cooperation will continue in 2017. In connection with this EOA had their second annual board meeting. The first board meeting was in January at Galleria Maroncelli in Milan.

The 2016 conference was hosted by Muzeum Slaskie in Katowice June 11-12. The theme was "Collecting Outsider Art". The first days included lectures by collectors and other experts. The second day included the General Assembly. The purpose was to discuss important questions in the field of Outsider Art as well as to exchange ideas and build networks between professionals working in the field, such as museums, galleries, collections, educational centers, studios and art projects. Especially questions dealing with collecting contemporary outsider art, sharing it to audience and saving it for the future was in the focus of discussions. The venue was held in the new, impressive museum building of the Silesian Museum. There was also a very interesting pre-conference program with the recommendation to visit the Ethnographic Museum of Cracow, and the Gallerie d'Naif Art, with examples of Leszek Macak's fascinating collection on Polish naïve art, outsider art and contemporary folk art. Also a Village Tour to Zalipie and Paszyn, with great examples of Polish folk art and cultural heritage was part of this program. And a culture heritage tour in Katowice surroundings.

Next year's conference will be hosted by Outside In at Pallant House in Chichester. The theme is "Voice of the Artists" and the dates are May 4th and 5th for the conference with the General Assembly on the morning of the 6th. Maybe there will be some additional program for workshops etc., so please just reserve the dates and wait a little while, before you book your travel. Also there is a chance that some of the program will take place in Brighton and London. As soon as the program is ready, it will be published on EOA's homepage, Facebook and all members will also get an invitation by email.

4 Reports of the interest groups

Lotte presented the Studio Group: The meeting in connection with this year's conference and AGA was very good. There were 26 participants including artists from especially the Nordic countries. The main reason for that is that List an Landemæra (Iceland), Kaarisilta (FIN) and Kettuki (Fin), GAIA (DK) and INUTI (SE) have been working in a project called NOA (Nordic Outsider Art) for the past year, and had live workshops with the participation of artists from each of these studios at GAIA Academy during this week. New ideas from the Studio interest group is to have a touring exhibition group and also to use Skype for more interaction between European Studios. The Studio Group expects that next year's meeting at Outside In will be highly relevant for Art Schools and Studios and hopes that even more members will join.

Raija presented the Environment Group: There were four participants in this meeting. The group had three main topics for their discussion.

- European collaboration for recognition and protection of outsider art environments
Raija reminded that 2018 will be a European Year of Cultural Heritage:
There should be good opportunities to promote outsider art environments by e.g. participating in national discussions and workshops, and all EOA members are encouraged to do so.
- Ideas for next conference of EOA in 2018 in UK
The environment interest group suggests that the program for next year's conference will include also creators of outsider art environments. The group is encouraged to be active in sending suggestions to Marc Steene, main organiser of the event.
The participants in the meeting want to keep the environments group alive and active. They suggest that in the UK it could come back to the starting point of the collaboration: sharing thoughts dealing with the theme of the conference and discuss common interests around outsider art environments.
- Database of European outsider art
Background:
Two years ago, the question of the database was widely discussed in our interest group in Sicily. We wished EOA to start a EU-funded project for financing the database, but the project failed. Danilo Proietti made a quick survey for producing a realistic view on how much work and resources the database would demand. The discussion continued in the closed FB group EOA Environments Interest Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534058933339922/> but it didn't really go forward. Marc Steene made a preliminary plan how to go forward in practice and how much it will cost.
EOA shared with all member organisations an inquiry to join as funders for starting the work. There was not much interest for funding.
Current views:
The environment group is still believing in the idea to develop a common database and website for promoting varying actors of outsider art in Europe, including outsider art environments. We want to courage EOA to continue the work for finding resources and solutions to start that work. We realize that it will take time to create new platforms and find resources, and we warmly recommend all the activists in the field of outsider environments to keep their relationships alive towards the best platforms which already exist: 1) Henk van Es and his blogspot and Facebook page as well as 2) the SPACES Archives. These are well-known and carefully updated channels to introduce and promote sites widely in English. Each of us should be active in sending our information, articles, photographs and news dealing with outsider art environments to them.
<https://outsider-environments.blogspot.fi/p/3-general-introduction.html> (Contact: henkvanes@yahoo.com)
<https://www.facebook.com/OutsiderEnvironmentsEurope/>
<http://www.spacesarchives.org/> (Contact: info@spacesarchives.org)

Thomas presented the Research and Collection Group: There were ten participants. Among other things, they further discussed ideas of producing and maintaining a blog which should help to share news about exhibitions and research. The participants had a lively debate around the concept of outsider art.

5 Statement of the secretary

Anna presented the new members of 2016.

New member organisations:

Kunstnerhuset Karavana, Denmark
Association des Amis des Chomo, France
CAIB, Italy
ActionSpace, England
Kunstsolan 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

One of the challenges for the Secretariat is to get members to pay their membership fee. There are currently 19 members who have not paid for 2016. Anna will send reminders to members who are behind. Even though the membership fee is modest, it is of vital importance for the running of the organisation, including the yearly conference and general assembly. The membership fee is the sole income of the organisation, but it must also be pointed out that an incredible amount of work is carried out and funded by the associations involved.

6 Approval of the reports and accounts

Approved.

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

- Yearly conference (UK in 2018 and Sweden in 2019)
- Participation of the board in the Paris Outsider Art Fair October 19th.-22th.
- Information about EOA in the publication of the yearly festival of Le Grand BAZ´ART
- 2 x 2 Kunsthaus Kannen: Lisa Inckman offers a space for EOA + presentation of EOA
- Ideas for benefits for members/More members
- A new website/database
- Folders/Postcards advertising for EOA to share in connection with members events
- Members can mention EOA in their newsletters and on homepages etc.

The membership fee remain unchanged in 2018: 75 Euro for Organisations and 30 for Individual members. It was suggested to make an additional, but voluntary fee for 25 Euro for organisations. The additional fee would be exclusively for developing a new website.

Another suggestion was crowd funding and to look for sponsor funding. Le Grand BAZ´ART proposed an auction in favor of raising funds for the project and kindly offered to donate a Robillard artwork for this purpose.

Næstved Kulturforening proposed to use a company for the work, who employs people with special needs possible as a collaboration or sponsor project: www.aspit.dk

8 Election of representatives in the board

New elected members of the board for the next two years

Yoon Hee Lamot (Museum Dr. Guislain)

Malgorzata Szaefer (Tak Gallery)

Minna Haveri (Kettuki)

Monika Jagfeld (Kunsthaus Kannen)

Current board members continuing their period:

Thomas Röske (president)

Marc Steene (vice president)

Lotte Nilsson-Välímáa

9 Election of auditor

Nita Lorimer was reelected.

10 Any other business

As a new idea the Secretariat will point out (by lottery) three member organisations every year for a special feature. The member, if they are interested, will be asked to do a presentation of themselves, e.g. a short video, a text and/or pictures. The feature will be shared on EOAs Facebook and in an email to all other members. The aim is to strengthen the knowledge about each other and thereby vitalise the EOAs networking capability.