



# CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinavisk Forenings Kunstnerhus i Rom

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## AN INTRODUCTION

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Circolo Scandinavo is an association and a Nordic artists residency in Rome where Nordic and Italian culture meets in a wide range of fields, such as music, literature, film, visual arts and performing arts. Today Circolo runs a modern residency program where 5 rooms are offered every month to highly qualified artists seeking a place to focus on work and find inspiration.

The purpose and aim of Circolo is not only to give the artists the space they need to work, but also to help them get in contact with local artists and cultural organisers, by inviting them to exhibition openings, organising meetings and excursions and involve the artists and their work in local events organised both by Circolo and other institutes and organisations.

Circolo Scandinavo is active on the social media, always looking for new collaborations and people to connect with. The network of Circolo reaches out to the Nordic countries and Rome, but also to the rest of Italy and other countries. The network of Circolo is aimed to help the artists to get connections regarding their projects and work, and possible future collaborations. The artists themselves are an important part of the network and they become members of the association for 2 years to get the possibility to keep the connection to the residency and get involved within the association and take part in future decision making.

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At the residency the communication between the artists on a daily basis is important and recommended. This happens in the shared spaces like the kitchen and the rooftop terrace, but also on a monthly morning coffee that works as an introduction to the residency month. Many former artists-in-residence return to Circolo to find the flow of work they experienced before and to be able to exchange thoughts and ideas with other artists sharing the residency with them. This exchange has been proven to be valuable and quite unique, as many artists are not used to work with the possibility of a direct dialog with other artists from other fields.

The open dialog between artists, staff and the city is important and helps the staff to improve the residency program and the artists to get into the society they visit for such a short but valuable period of time. The residency aims to be flexible as to serve the needs of the diverse range of artists and to be able to offer new cultural experiences to the local audience. Circolo Scandinavo as a residency and an association works to build and maintain a profound, nordic collaboration as well in Italy as in the Nordic countries.

## VIEW FROM THE ROOFTOP



# NORDISKA KONSTNÄRSHUSET

Skandinaviska föreningen i Rom 150 år

I början av 1800-talet skulle "alla" konstnärer från norra Europa resa till Rom. Goethe hade ju varit där redan tidigare, dansken Thorvaldsen var där, hans landsman H.C. Andersen var där; det var de nyklassicistiska idealen som rådde och platsen var alltså Rom. År 1833 hade antalet danskar i staden blivit så stort att de för att kunna hålla kontakt med litteraturen och händelserna i sitt hemland slöt sig samman i skapandet av De Danskes Bogsamling i Rom. Några år senare skapade även de svenska och norska konstnärskolonierna egna bibliotek efter danskt mönster, och den 2 juli 1860 sammanslogs de tre biblioteken, varvid Skandinaviska föreningen för konstnärer och vetenskapsmän bildades. Eller som föreningen heter på italienska: *Circolo Scandinavo per Artisti e Scienziati*.

Skandinaviska föreningens första storhetstid inföll under dess första, tjugo verksamhetsår. Tonen angavs under denna tid långt av de norska författarna Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson och Henrik Ibsen, som ofta med stora gester presiderade vid föreningens olika evenemang.

Skandinavismen som idé har dödförklarats många gånger, men i Skandinaviska föreningen i Rom har den alltid överlevt. Sålunda skriver t.ex. signaturen Carlino redan 1862: "Är Skandinavismen där hemma en dröm, så är den däremot här full verklighet." Och ännu i dag lever denna idé i bästa välmåga och samförstånd konstnärer emellan i de trivsamma utrymmena på Via della Lungara, intill Villa Farnesina i centrum av Rom.

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I dag är det Nordiska konstnärshuset i Rom ett modernt konstnärssresidens, som upprätthålls med medel från Nordiska ministerrådet. Men dessa medel är satta under ständig prövning, varför verksamheten tyvärr i dag inte kan planeras med längre framförhållning än ett år i taget och önskvärda förbättringar i konstnärernas boende och arbetsmiljö inte kan företas. Detta trots att verksamheten i Rom av de nordiska konstnärorganisationerna samstämmigt uppfattas som utomordentligt viktig. Här finner man, som Grieg sade, *"ro att fördjupa sig i sig själv"*, här finns en unik känsla för historiens djup och tillvarons kontinuitet. Men här finns också den levande och moderna konsten, ty konstscenen Rom under de senaste åren har blivit oerhört mycket rikare tack vare stadens satsningar på nya konsertsalar, museer, utställningslokaler och gallerier. Med dessa samt med kulturförvaltningen i Rom har föreningen lyckats etablera ett fruktbart samarbete.

Det är alltså att i likhet med Niels Hoffmeyer att hoppas, att föreningen inte bara har sin ärorika historia att stoltsera med, utan att den även har en lysande framtid. Hoffmeyer, som var föreståndare under de kritiska åren 1905 – 1908, skriver i sin bok *Romerske Dage: "Meget har været sagt og skrevet om denne Forening, misrøgtet har den været gennem mange Aar, og ofte paa Gravens Rand. Den er dog den eneste Sammenslutning af nordiske Mænd og Kvinder, af det man kalder Skandinaver, som eksisterer, absolut den eneste. Og derfor bør den have sit Viaticum, sin Rejsepenning ud i Fremtiden - og ikke endnu sit Monument."*

Fredrik Lång  
författare och tidigare medlem i Skandinaviska föreningens styrelse



## PHOTO FROM THE PAST



*Den store sal i en av Skandinavisk Forenings tidligere residenser (uvisst hvilken). I hjørnet står Thorvaldsens skulptur Danserinden. Det meste av kunst og bohøve finnes framdeles i Foreningens eie.*

Photo and text from *Till Rom Nordiska konstnärer i Rom under 150 år*  
(Pihl Atmer, Carlens, Lång)



## RESIDENCY PROGRAM

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Circolo Scandinavo offers a unique and inspiring environment for Nordic artists who need a place to focus on their work and find inspiration. The residency is centrally located in a 15th-century building in the beautiful area of Trastevere, Rome.

Artists from all Nordic countries and all art fields may apply.

The application period is from 1st February to 1st April. Artists can apply for residency for 1 month or more and the program includes cultural events that are open for the public, and other projects designed to promote Nordic artists in Italy. The program contributes to collaboration and networking with the Italian public and culture.

For the Residency Program 2015-2016 we received 303 applications which of 51 got selected.

**1** from Faroe Islands  
**30** Iceland  
**41** Denmark  
**59** Finland  
**62** Sweden  
**110** Norway

which

**13** in Film  
**29** Performing arts  
**28** Music  
**72** Literature  
**161** Visual arts

**FINLAND**

Aarne Jämsä -Sculptor  
Antti Seppänen - Filmmaker  
Ilkka Volanen - Sound & lightning designer  
Jaana Rannikko - Photographer  
Johanna Gullichsen - Designer  
Kaisu Koivisto - Visual artist  
Kari Ikonen- Pianist, composer  
Milena Parland - Writer  
Mårten Westö - Writer  
Riikka Pelo - Writer, novelist  
Simo Alitalo -Sound artist  
Tero Annanolli - Visual artist  
Minna Weurlander - Composer

**SWEDEN**

Bodil Persson - Dramaturg  
Eskil Fagerström - Writer  
Eva Ström - Writer, poet  
Håkan Sandell - Poet  
Irena Kraus - Playwriter  
Karin Modigh - Choreographer  
Karolina Erlingsson - Visual artist  
Magnus William-Olsson - Poet  
Melker Sundén - Director  
Sten Sandell - Musician, composer  
Tania Naranjo - Musician, composer  
Ulla West - Visual artist  
Wiktor Ericsson - Film director  
Annika Britt Lewis - Dance & performance artist

**NORWAY**

Christine Aspelund - Sculptor  
Hanne Lydia Opøien Kristoffersen - Visual artist  
Harald E. Tørresen - Visual artist  
Ivo de Figueiredo - Writer  
Jannicke Låker - Visual artist  
Kenneth Varpe - Visual artist  
Kjersti Eliassen - Visual artist  
Marit Tusvik - Writer  
Martin Rane Bauck - Composer  
Sigbjørn Bratlie - Visual artist  
Toril Brekke - Writer

**ICELAND**

Kristin Steinsdottir - Writer  
Marteinn Thorsson - Writer, filmmaker  
Ólöf Nordal - Visual artist  
Salka Gudmundsdottir - Playwriter  
Steinunn Thorarinsdottir - Sculptor

**DENMARK**

Agusta Atla - Visual artist  
Heidi Hove - Visual artist  
Henriette Houth - Writer  
Henrik Marstal - Musician & writer  
Jørgen Munck Rasmussen - Writer  
Katrine Borre - Film instructor  
Kirsten Justesen - Sculptor  
Lone Falster - Film director

## THE RESIDENCY BACKYARD

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## THE BOARD

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Circolo Scandinavo has a Board that decides over the association and running of the Residency together with Director Ingo Arnason. The Board is renewed every 2 years through elections and they meet twice a year.

The Board members present all Nordic countries as well as many different fields.

### **THE BOARD 2015-2017**

Pekka Korpinen (FI), Chairman

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir (IS), Vice Chairman  
Representing the Nordic Council of Artists

Marianne Pade (DK)  
Representing the Nordic Institutes in Rome

Ylva Gabrielsson (SE)  
Representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome

Hans Lepp (SE)

Juha Ruusuvuori (FI)

Ingeborg Stana (NO)

Janne Giese (DK)

## MEMBERSHIP

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Circolo Scandinavo is an association as well as a residency. For 155 years it has been a center of Nordic culture and a meeting place for artists in different fields and the audience in Rome.

For 2015 Circolo has around 200 members.

The members of Circolo support the work of the Residency. Member get invited to events organized by the association and access to the library of valuable books that Circolo holds. Members also influence the work and future of Circolo and get an insight to the work by joining annual meetings and the Election of the Board. Members receive a membership card that holds discounts for cultural events and local spots in Rome.

Artists-in-residence get a membership for 2 years.

Circolo has 4 different membership fees:

**INDIVIDUAL** 25€/year  
**COUPLE** 40€/year  
**ASSOCIATION/COMPANY** 100€/year  
**STUDENT** 15€/year

Membership can be paid through the website.

# ACTIVITIES 2015





Circolo Scandinavo organises a lot of events during the year, including artist talks and collaborations with local venues. Below a presentation of a few events organised in 2014:

### **TILL ROM** Meet the artists

A monthly event where the Artist-in-residence can present themselves and their work. The artists and the audience have the possibility to get in contact with each other after the presentation and several times this has led to some new collaborations and contacts. The event has also been a good way to get new people to get in touch with Circolo.

### **NORDIC FILM FEST**

In collaboration with the Nordic Embassies in Rome Circolo Scandinavo has been organising the annual Nordic Film Fest which is a 4 day festival of Nordic Film scenery. Circolo Scandinavo has been projecting short films, photography, video art, documentaries and experimental films by the Artists-in-residence in a special venue at the festival.

### **OPEN GARDEN PROJECT**

Circolo participated in the Open Garden Project where private gardens and interesting spaces are open for the public for a day. The rooftop terrace and garden was presented for the audience together with a guided tour in the Residency and a lecture on landscape and art-installation by Artist-in-residence Arne Ingvaldsen.

**'COME TOGETHER' AT MAXXI**, the National Museum of XXI Century Arts  
During the exhibition Open Museum Open City, two of Circolos Artist-in-residence Mette Kit Jensen and KirsiMarja Metsähuone participated in a round-table discussion together with American Academy in Rome, Academia Belgica, Académie de France – Villa Medici and the Real Academia de Espana

## ARTIST STATEMENT

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*“My time at Circolo was of great importance. I truly benefited from having the time and space to concentrate on my research and brainstorming at this stage of the project. This is the kind of work that really requires concentration and detachment from other work projects and the hectic every-day. Circolo Scandinavo offered both the mental and physical time and space for this to happen, and this was immensely helpful for the project. I had two screenings of my film On thin ice at the Nordic Film festival, and I’m very happy to say that both of my screenings were full of local audience. I’m very happy that Circolo takes part in the event, and I strongly encourage continuing with this.”*

- Alli Haapasalo, Director and writer (FI)



norden

Nordisk ministerråd



SVENSKA KULTUR  
**FONDEN**



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