

CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

EST. 1860

via Raimondo da Capua 12 – 00153 Roma – www.circoloscandinavo.it

Annual report Circolo Scandinavo 2022

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, Chair of the Board

Infrastructure for Nordic artists

The year 2022, and up until now, has been a rollercoaster ride for the board and director of the artist residency Circolo Scandinavo. Some of the challenges have provided us with exciting opportunities but others have been strenuous and exhausting.

For example, we have found joy in the move to our new housing, which we undertook in the fall of 2022. Although parting with the villa on Via Della Lungara in Trastevere was difficult, we are very happy with the new place at the top of the Aventino hill, facing the Orange Grove, Giardini degli Aranci, and the ancient Basilica Di Santa Sabina. Admittedly, we miss the roof-terrace at the old location but we have come to love the beautiful garden and open terrace on Via Santa Sabina.

All members of Circolo Scandinavo know that we have been on the lookout for a new place for some time, but we did not foresee that in the end cuts of the NCM's financial contribution to the residency would force us to move. However, that was the case, and in the summer of 2022 we signed a contract for the lease at the recently renovated Via St. Sabina no. 8. We moved the old library, the statues, plates, sculptures and furniture, to the new place, and although we can accommodate fewer artists at once than we could at our old location, before the pandemic, we are very happy.

Overshadowing our joy is the fact that NCM has decided to discontinue its annual contribution to the organisation, and has not answered our tireless attempts to influence that decision. The NCM has been the pillar of our organisation for decades but has cut its contributions by 20% in the past years. The threat of them entirely pulling all financial support now looms large and for a responsible board and director that can only lead to one thing: the drastic conclusion of closing the “Artists in Residence program” permanently.

Of course, we hope that the ministers will become aware of the consequences that the closure of Circolo would have on the community of Nordic artists and the art they create but we are

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running out of time. At the time of writing this, we have 286 applications from Nordic artists applying for a residency say, next term (Oct. 2023 – Sept. 2024). Under normal circumstances, applicants receive an answer in June so that they can organize their upcoming season, to benefit both those who are granted a stay in the AiR program but also those who do not get in and have to make other plans.

No two artists work exactly the same, some need to be in close collaboration with their co-creators and artistic teams, e.g. performing artists, musicians, actors, directors, dancers, dramaturgs, stage- and costume designers, while others require large studios with complex equipment like sculptors or elaborate computer equipment or sound studios, depending on the art form. In spite of their different mediums, all artists have one thing in common; they occasionally have to disconnect from the mayhem of their every-day surroundings and collect themselves after completing demanding projects. That time is necessary for them in order to recharge, look inward, and find the spark for their next endeavour. The tranquillity and the rewarding community that Circolo Scandinavo (and other residencies) offer, allow artists to maintain their creativity and birth new ideas.

The Nordic politicians pride themselves on strong and fair communities; building roads and bridges to get from one place to another, from one country to another; running elaborate hospitals and strong welfare systems for people to thrive. We call this essential infrastructure, but what the Nordic artist's organisations know (all active members of CS) is that artist residencies are an essential infrastructure for artists to thrive, and the Nordic residency in Rome offers unique facilities for Nordic artists and has done so for 163 years. If Nordic politicians claim to value art at all it is imperative that they recognise art is not created in a vacuum.

In fact, not all residencies are identical, each has its own facilities and culture. But few offer what Circolo Scandinavo has; a community that cuts across nationalities and art forms, the X-factor being the delimited Nordic cultural heritage, some of which has been created here in Rome because Nordic artists have had a place to gather; a home away from home.

It is the hope of Nordic artists and others who advocate the AiR program of Circolo Scandinavo that the Nordic ministers reconsider their previous decisions and ensure the continued support needed for the prosperous future of Scandiaviska Föreningen I Rom; - the home of Nordic artists in Rome.

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Marie Kraft, Director

During 2022 the threat of the pandemic became less important and life in Rome came back to a new normality. The various Italian and foreign institutions in the city were all open again and have offered a rich programme of cultural and scientific events. As the Nordic artists selected for Circolo Scandinavo's Artist in residence programme could travel more easily again, progressively the house was filled with people and we could start to receive visitors from outside.

For many years the rent for the apartment in via della Lungara had represented a too high cost in relation to the funding. After several discussions with the landlord, Accademia dei Lincei, we realised that there was no possibility to obtain a lower rent. The board had been looking for another apartment already before the pandemic but now it was more urgent than ever to find a solution. The prices had become more reasonable and after visiting several places we finally found a suitable apartment under total renovation at the end of February. Some negotiations and a lot of patience was needed before to find a convenient agreement with the private owner, but in July the chair of the board could finally sign the contract. We moved Circolo Scandinavo for the 15th time in its history and books, artworks and furniture had to be packed down and unpacked in the new rooms. It took time to get everything into place but at the end of the year, the artists and the staff had found new habits, both within the building, in the garden and in the surrounding area.

With new premises, hosting our unique Nordic heritage, and at the same time open to contemporary artists, cultural professionals, scholars and friends, we hope to receive convenient support in the coming years to allow us to continue to take care and curate our common Nordic cultural project. We believe artistic freedom, cultural experience and education are necessary components in building a more just and really sustainable society. You are all welcome to take part in that adventure.

Collaborations

Rome is a city which hosts an exceptional international presence, and Circolo Scandinavo is part of a network of more than 40 foreign institutes and academies. With the new normality we have been able to deepen our collaborations with activities both in Rome and in the Nordic countries. The Retake a place reuse the space project supported by kulturkontakt continued with one week workshop organised together with South Iceland biennale with Nordic and Italian participants coming to Iceland in August and a group of young icelandic artists and architects participating in a three day walk in Rome in September. Two Italian artists had a residency in Umeå where Umeå arts centre hosted a last event in December.

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During the year our residence programme has been developed to give the artists new opportunities to meet Italian and international artists and cultural professionals to exchange experiences and present their work. Today's role of the foreign residence organisations in Rome are frequently discussed both within the organisations themselves but also together with Italian public institutions. In December we hosted one public talk on the subject with participants from the French academy Villa Medici, the National art museum MAXXI, Stalker cultural association, the New art Academy NABA, and Nordic, Italian and International artists. We are planning a follow up in 2023.

Thanks to a special grant from Konstsfundet in Finland we could offer a residency in Naples to the Swedish speaking artist and photographer Laura Böök from Finland. During her three month's stay she started an interesting work in relation to neapolitan people and their daily life. We organised several gatherings with her and our other artists in residence both in Naples and Rome.

2022 was also the last year of our three collaboration projects in the City of Rome's cultural programme. Our artists in residence participated in walks, special visits to cultural events in hidden historical sites and we organised several presentations, and talks at Circolo Scandinavo together with the cultural association Stalker. With a new Municipality in Rome the cultural programme has gone through some changes but we have participated in several applications and hope to collaborate with new projects in 2023 and 2024.

We have continued our work with students and universities in different ways. In June we could finally organise a summer school in architecture and heritage with students working on site in Rome for three weeks. During the year we also organised several short visits for different Nordic university courses in art, architecture and urban planning. Our collaboration with Italian universities and schools continued with the art students at NABA and a new Master thesis project by the international arts management programme at IED, the European institute of Design. A dynamic group of 18 students from all continents explored the historical archives and the contemporary artists in residence at Circolo Scandinavo and gave our association and Nordic artists a prominent space in their final presentation at Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna.

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The pandemic and the new war in Ukraine have shown how important our Nordic collaboration is. In Rome we were happy to manage to create a new common Nordic festival, Nordic traces in Rome. During the entire month of November all the Nordic institutions, the embassies, the research institutes of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and Circolo Scandinavo came together and offered a broad programme of cultural and scientific events on the theme of Nordic traces in Rome. An interactive map with important Nordic addresses in the city was created and the official opening of the festival took place in our new premises. The festival was a real success and will be continued in 2023.

New premises

The premises are located on the two lower floors of a private building from 1926, inside the city walls at the Aventine hill in a beautiful green and historical setting in front of the Santa Sabina church. The renovated spaces are convenient both for individual work and for shared activities. We are happy to offer four big rooms all with a double bed and a desk. There are five bathrooms and a common kitchen in direct connection with a living room and a terrace, which can be used by the artists in residence in their daily life and for events. The library is located in a separate room with several working places. The main entrance passes through a private garden which offers different areas for exercise or work in the sun or shadow of the trees. From 2023 we will be able to offer an annex in a small independent apartment in the same neighborhood.

Artist in residence programme 2022

The main task of the Artist Residency is to provide an artist-in-residence programme in a creative environment where the artist can focus on creating. Creativity is a key component in Nordic cultural co-operation. The co-operation will strengthen the Nordic region as an attractive and stimulating place for creators or mediators of art and culture. The need for a joined Nordic residence is manifold. Rome is a source of endless artistic richness and inspiration. The Nordic and Scandinavian label carries well in Italy, and easily opens connections with Roman artistic circles. Additionally, artists in Circolo's residence get to know other Nordic artists, leading to life-long friendships, as Circolo's valuable historic portrait collection demonstrates. With its more than 40 cultural and research institutes Rome is also an exceptional international arena where hundreds of highly qualified artists and scholars live and work every year. The artist in residence programme offers regular opportunities for Nordic artists to connect with the other foreign residents during open houses, cultural events and workshops.

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An important number of artists have had to postpone their stay from 2020, and most of the first six months were offered to artists from previous application years. The call was open until 1st April 2022 and for the period October 2021 - September 2022 we received a total number of 190 applications.

The applications were received directly via our application form on www.circoloscandinavo.it. The selection was made by an CS evaluation board, assisted by Nordic artist organizations and the Director. Artistic quality is the most significant criteria in the selection. The number of residency artists admitted varies depending on the granted stay between 1 and 3 months. Due to the regulations of Covid-19, Circolo Scandinavo could offer three large rooms and one apartment until the month of May when we could allow for two rooms to share a bathroom and could add one more room. We continued to offer a few rooms during the move in July and August and from September the new premises could offer four double rooms. There were several last minute cancellations and changes in the schedule first due to illness or pandemic restrictions. A total number of 53 artist months were offered at Circolo Scandinavo in Rome in 2022 and three months in Naples. The number of artist months offered is still lower than in 2019 and because of new needs it is no longer possible to make artists share bathrooms to the same extent. The artist fee in the new premises has been kept to a similar level as before trying to take into account many artists' difficult financial situation after the pandemic.

33 artists in the Artist in residence programme AIR

1 musician, 1 performing artist, 2 writers from Denmark

2 musicians, 3 visual artists from Finland

4 performing artists, 2 writers from Iceland

1 musician, 1 performing artist and 12 visual artists from Norway

1 performing artist, 1 visual artist, 2 writers from Sweden

And also:

6 Visual artists from Iceland, 1 visual artist from Finland and 1 artist from Italy linked to specific projects

1 art historian from Iceland and 1 historian from Sweden

1 cultural professional from Norway and one cultural professional from Finland

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AiR 2022

January

“Alt går bra” - Visual artist duo I Norway
Carina Burman - Writer I Sweden
Peter Oskarsson - Director - Sweden
Glafira Galuzin - Visual artist - Norway
Ivan Galuzin - Visual artist - Norway
Kenneth Krabat - Writer & poet I Denmark
Cindy Lynn Brown - Poet I Denmark

February

“Alt går bra” - Visual artist- duo I Norway
Glafira Galuzin - Visual Artist - Norway
Ivan Galuzin - Visual Artist - Norway
Kenneth Krabat - Writer & poet I Denmark

March

Patrik Söderlund - Visual artist I Finland
Elisabeth Westerlund - Visual artist I Sweden
Geir Egil Bergjord - Visual artist I Norway
Eva Sommestad Holten - Set designer & librettist I Sweden & Denmark

April

Patrik Söderlund - Visual artist I Finland
Elisabeth Westerlund - Visual artist I Sweden
Geir Egil Bergjord - Visual artist I Norway
Nina Torp - Visual artist I Norway
Minna Kulojärvi - Architect I Finland

May

Nina Torp - Visual artist I Norway
Minna Kulojärvi - Architect I Finland
Margrét Pálmadóttír - Musician I Iceland
Hafliði Arngrímsson - Dramaturg, director & translator I Iceland

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Karl Áugúst Úlfsson - Playwright & translator | Iceland

Skuli Gaútason - Actor & director | Iceland

June

Lars Nordby - Visual artist | Norway

Minna Kulojärvi - Architect | Finland

Dorgrímur Dráinsson - Writer | Iceland

Ulf Långbacka - Composer | Finland

July

Lars Nordby - Visual artist | Norway

Dan Skjaeveland - Photographer | Norway

August

CLOSED

September

Morten Schantz - Pianist | Denmark

Oktober

Morten Schantz - Pianist | Denmark

Peter Brandt - Visual artist | Denmark

Gro Siri Ognoy Johansen - Singer & creator | Norway

November

Peter Brandt - Visual artist | Denmark

Gro Siri Ognoy Johansen - Singer & creator | Norway

Katarina Carlshamre - Writer | Sweden

Birgitte Sigmundstad - Visual artist | Norway

December

Peter Brandt - Visual artist | Denmark

Glafira Galuzin - Visual artist | Norway

Ivan Galuzin - Visual artist | Norway

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Tuuli Lempa - Musician | Finland

SIMKA - Visual artist duo | Sweden & Finland

Staff

Thanks to generous support from Svenska Kulturfonden in Finland, CS has had the possibility to receive a full time intern for many years. The internship of Alexandra Lindström continued until July but in the fall she was also hired by our Nordic festival to make the graphic design of the website and an interactive map. In September we had the pleasure of receiving our new Finnish intern, Charlotte Jansson. She has an MA in Philosophy and religion from Åbo university but also previous experience of working with tourism abroad, and is a precious multi task assistant to the director. Ida Maria Helsinghoff from Denmark joined CS for a two month internship included in her Master studies in Art history at Aarhus university. She focused mainly on preparing documentation for the Nordic festival in November but she was also assisting all different tasks. The move of the CS was made possible with huge help from the three interns.

Elizbieta Nawalaniec has taken care of cleaning at Circolo Scandinavo for many years, and we are lucky that she continues to come twice a week to our new premises.

Our new private garden is under control thanks to Michele Ricceri, an Italian landscape architect and gardener, educated in the UK.

In 2022, the former director Ingolfur Arnasson agreed to continue his collaboration with CS on several specific projects and he was an important support during all the process of finding and moving to new premises.

List of events and activities

Blue - the events taken place at Circolo

Red - the events organised by Circolo and taking place outside the residence

Green - events organised by others that Circolo participated in

3.1 Breakfast, introduction

AiR @Circolo Scandinavo

19.1 Vernissage

AiR visits Villa Massimo

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20.1 Napoli: Museo Madre, L'asilo

Circolo organised a guided visit for AiR and NABA

30.1 Lunch together

AiR @Circolo

25.02 Final project showcase from students of Public Art of NABA

Ostiense

25.02 Artist talk: Ivan Gaulzin, Glafira Seravinova, Kenneth Krabat

AiR presented their work @Circolo Scandinavo

2.03 Inauguration: Gribouillage / Scarabocchio. Da Leonardo da Vinci a Cy Twombly

AiR visited Villa Medici

8.03 Breakfast together

AiR @Circolo

9.03 Opening of exhibition

AiR visited Villa Massimo

11.3 Meeting regarding Nordic month in November

Nordic institutes and embassies @Swedish Institute

18.3 Napoli: Museo Madre, Made in Cloister, San Gennaro Catacombs

AiR Excursion

19-22.4 Pre-opening of the Nordic pavilion

Biennale Venezia

28.4 General Assembly

Board, members @Circolo scandinavia and Zoom

9-14.4 Residence & presentations

Nätverkstan SE organised by CoopCulture

AiR visited Palazzo Merulana

10-11.5 Urban studies Study visit

Students from Malmö university visit Rome organised in collaboration with Circolo Scandinavo

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28.5 Norwegian counsellors in Italy

Visit and Aperitivo organised by Norwegian Embassy @Circolo scandinavo

31.5 Finnish parliamentarians

Visit and Aperitivo organised by Finnish Embassy @Circolo scandinavo

7.6 University course *Cultural heritage*

Students from Gothenburg university visits Circolo scandinavo

14.6 Swedish promotion network in Europe

Swedish Embassy organises a visit to Circolo scandinavo

20.6-3.7 Summer course *Architecture and heritage*

Umeå university in Rome

22.6 *Photo exhibition-Nordland*

Presentation by Norwegian embassy@Museo di trastevere

Aperitivo for professionals @Circolo scandinavo

19.7 *Hidden histories*

Event @Palazzo Altemps

27.7 Meeting with NABA art academy

@Circolo Scandinavo

30.7-7.8 *Retake a place reuse the space*

Workshop in Iceland

7.9 - Hidden histories: *Books are Bodies (they can be dismembered)* - Dora García @ Biblioteca Casanatense.

9.9 - Villa Massimo - *Berlin Rome Express 2022* - a musical and visual techno inspired performance

13.9 *Novembre Nordico* meeting to plan the festivities with the Nordic embassies and institutions @ Circolo

23.9 *Spontaneamente* - a three day walk with Stalker in rural areas of Rome

26.9 TALK with our Icelandic group and Stalker within the project "Retake a Place - Reuse a Space"

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30.9 “Sami-event” via Zoom in collaboration with Stalker

3.10 Circolo Board Meeting on Zoom

10.10 The Swedish institute *Suecia Antiqua et Hodierna* - an interdisciplinary evening.

(“A presentation of *Sergel's Cult of the Phallus* by Martin Olin, musical performances by Anna Paradiso and a presentation by Christofer Landstedt titled *An abundance of delicacies.*”)

13.10 A group of students studying Ibsen at Oslo University visits Circolo and Marie presents our operations

14.10 A group of 16 IED masters students that we are collaborating with have a lecture in our library. Marie introduces them to our operations and the students present their ideas for their final event which revolves around the theme “creolisation”. Some of Circolo’s former and current AiRs work will be presented at the event, and Marie will participate in one of the two panels discussing “creolisation”.

21.10 Villa Massimo event *Studi aperti!*

25.10 A Swedish group from a travel agency visits Circolo. Marie introduces them to our operations and they have an aperitivo on the porch.

28.10 Exhibition at the Swiss institute *L'arcobaleno riposa sulla strada (The rainbow rests in the streets)*, Meret Oppenheim’s works into dialogue with contemporary artists.

8.11 Circolo hosted the inauguration for Novembre Nordico. 190 guests attended the Opening Party.

9.11 Board Meeting @ Circolo

10.11 Marie and Ingo give a guided tour of the Aventino and Testaccio for the Board Members

15.11 Maxxi opening

17.11 Book Release of Viveca Sten at the Swedish Institute

18.11 Naples with the residents.

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Circolo received Katy Gyllstads grant from Konstsamfundet in order to organise a residence for a Swedish-speaking-Finnish artist. The grant went to photographer and visual artist, Laura Böök, who had her residency in Naples.

We visited Laura and her workplace as well as a number of museums; Made in Cloister, Il Madre and Museo archeologico nazionale di Napoli. Before heading back to Rome we visited Magazzini Fotografici where design students from the art academy Naba presented their beautiful photograph exhibition. In between the museum visits we ate delicious Napolitan pizza and pasta and tasted some local wines. The chaotic yet charming city left a good impression on our artists!

25.11 Nordic Talk @ Circolo in collaboration with Stalker.

We offered some food and drinks after the Talk, and our guests stayed for a long time.

3.12 IED-event *In the Between* @ Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna + dinner with the residents

6.12 Finland's national day celebrations at Villa Lante. Our AiR Tuuli Lempa performs with piano playing

12.12 Breakfast with the residents.

Breakfasts with the residents have been arranged when new residents arrive. It is a perfect occasion for them to be introduced and to get to know the other residents and the staff. At the breakfast we discuss practical things that are good to know about the residence and the surrounding area.

12.12 Lucia celebrations at Piazza di Pietra arranged by the Swedish Institute

15.12 Christmas lunch @ Villa Lante for the staff of the Nordic Institutes

16.12 Naples vol 2 with the residents. We visited an AiR residence and were introduced to its operations as well as the artscene in Napoles in general. Laura Böök presents the work she's been doing during her residency in Napoles. We visited Il Madre and a curator told us about the current exhibitions taking place at the museum. We also had time to enjoy some of the local food delicacies.

19.12 Glöggparty and AiR presentations. Marie had made homemade glögg which was a hit for our guests, especially for those who never tried it before. Our AiR Ivan and Tuuli presented their work for us and Tuuli performed with piano playing.

21.12 Lunch with the residents 100% Bio

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5.1 Group of 30 + students from Göteborg university visits Circolo to view the residence and learn about our function.

6.1 Dinner with the residents

10.1 Dinner with the residents

20.12 SIMKA presents their work + aperitivo. We invited all residents and staff from the Nordic institutes to participate.

23.1 Poetry exhibition by Tiina Hallikainen @ Villa Lante

26.1 Research Seminar “Anatomy of ruins” by Vincent Dumay @ Swedish Institute

27.1 Glafira presents the work she's done during her residency.

27.1 Event “On Dreams” @ Swiss Institute