Circolo Scandinavo

annual Report



SKANDINAVISK FORENINGS KUNSTNERHUS I ROM



Who we are

Circolo Scandinavo is a Nordic artist residency in Rome, with a history of nearly 160 years. At the residency artists from the Nordic countries are given a space to create their art in a inter-Nordic environment.

What we do

Circolo Scandinavo's main task is to provide a modern artistin-residence program in a historical and creative environment. At the same time we are a platform for promoting Nordic art and culture in Italy.

Through Circolo Scandinavo Nordic culture and identity is presented for an international audience. The residency strengthens the interaction between the Nordic cultural sectors and the rest of the world.

CHAIR´S COMMENTS



During 2018 the Board of Circolo Scandinavo has consolidated its work on Circolo's strategy (based on a feasibility study by the former CEO of the Finnish Cultural Foundation Paavo Hohti in 2016) in order to review and elevate the activities of Circolo to the next level. The resulting memorandun (dated 31 October, 2018) is annexed to the Annual Report.

As a follow-up the Board has worked with increased visibility for Circolo both in the Nordic countries and among both Nordic and Italian institutions in Rome. The focus has been threefold: to meet personally the Ministers of Culture and Ministers of Nordic Cooperation in the Nordic countries, to organize Circolo Board meetings at the Nordic Institutes in Rome and to explore Roman contacts with interested cultural institutions. Furthermore, the board has invited the Nordic Cultural Civil Servants Committee to hold one of its next meetings at Circolo.

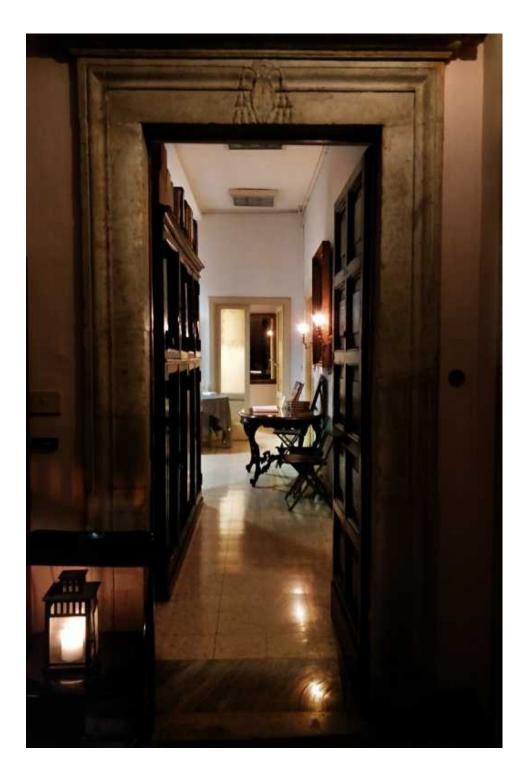
The interest for a stay at Circolo is delightfully high among the Nordic artists. The demand is higher than the accomodation possibilities in the current facilities. In order to increase the number of artists able to enjoy the residence, the board decided to move the Director's residence from the premises and make room for an additional studio. This move has given a slight minus in the budget, which will be compensated by the long term benefits.

On the administrative side the board has clarified the economic relation between the board and the director thus enabling more expedient management of the activities. Likewise the rental agreement with Academia Nazionale di Lincei has been renewed for the coming years. The board has considered other location in Rome but found that the economic benefits were few and would not compensate the additional costs.

Finally, I would like to mention a special outward reaching activity, as Circolo Scandivo contributed to an exhibition of the drawings of one of the best artist of our collection, Carl Bloch, In Utah, during August 2018–January 2019.

It has been challenging and inspiring to work with Circolo and I want to extend my warmest thanks to all the members of the Board and the Director.

Copenhagen, March 2019-03-17 Tarja Cronberg



Circolo Scandinavo in Rome is working to enhance mobility, networking and creativity through offering a Nordic residency programme in Rome. The programme is targeting Nordic professional artists working in all art forms. Located outside the Nordic region, CS gives artists the opportunity to use the residency centre as a Nordic base for broader international cooperation and exposure.

The communication and exchange between the network in the Nordic countries and CS has continued to be fruitful in 2018. Officials of the Nordic Council of Ministers and senior advisors in the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat in Copenhagen, have been very helpful to CS in their efforts to provide individualised information and involving CS in initiatives for general information to the Nordic cultural sector.

In the Autumn of 2018, CS contacted the Nordic cultural ministers and the ministers of Nordic collaboration in each country, asking for a meeting to further expand the activities at CS. So far, five meetings have been held. Two in Finland with the Finnish minister of Nordic cooperation Anne Berner and Paula Lehtomäki, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Two meetings were in Iceland with Iceland's minister of Nordic cooperation Sigurdur Ingi Jóhansson and the cultural minister Lilja Dögg Alfredsdóttir. The fifth meeting was held at CS with the cultural minister of Norway, Trine Skei Grande.

The Nordic embassies in Rome and CS continue to have a productive collaboration that peaks in the annual Nordic Film Fest Roma in May. In 2018 CS presented its program Nordic Video Art with material by the artists-in-residence. These collaborations with the embassies emphasised the unique possibilities of CS's Nordic platform in Italy for a common branding of Nordic art and culture. This will be a valuable complement to individual national cultural promotion and collaboration programmes. Our artists also participated in an event organised in collaboration with the Association of Italian Screenwriters and a meeting with Italian producers and distributors.

Several visits were paid to CS in 2018 from Nordic ministers, ambassadors, officials, artists and tourist groups. The visits have been of great value to the director and the board. The Cultural minister of Norway, Trine Skei Grande, visited Circolo Scandinavo in December. The Director and the Minister shared a meaningful conversation about the significance of artist-in-residence programmes for Nordic networking and Nordic cultural policy. The Cultural minister of the Faroe Islands, Rigmor Dam, stayed here at CS in June as visitor accompanying her husband, the writer Arnbjørn Ó. Dalsgarð.



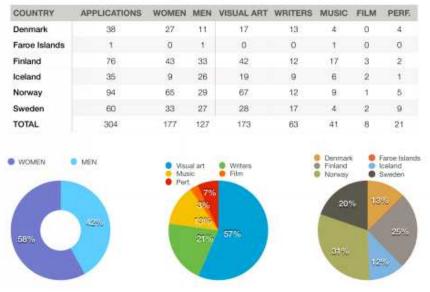
Several researchers visited CS this year. We have noticed an increased interest in our archives by researchers, and in order to facilitate access to them, we have made them accessible online. We also received a visit from ARLIS/Norden – Art Libraries Society Norden, Students from The Oslo School of Architecture and Design and students in the Ibsen master course at The University of Oslo.

CS and its artists-in-residence will be participating in the experimental project known as Macro Asilo, organised by the MACRO – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma. In this project, the very idea of the museum seeks to renew itself with the intention of forging a new and prolific relationship between art and the city. The experiment, in that sense, concerns precisely the city's museum of contemporary art, exploring its civic function as an institution operating in the present on the production of skills, sense and knowledge, an institution that uses art to place itself at people's disposal. Macro Asilo is the first piece in the Contemporary and Future Cluster set to become a complementary presence compared to other institutions such as the MAXXI or the Galleria Nazionale, to offer the city's residents a rich spectrum of viewpoints and experiences.

Artist-in-residence programme and cultural events

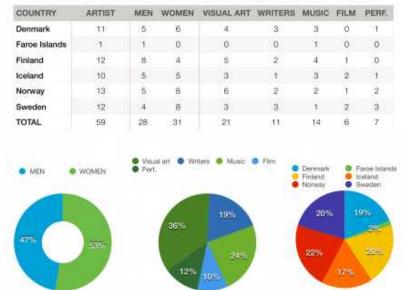
In the beginning of 2018 CS could offer 66 months' annual residence stays for artists, but by the end of 2018 with a reorganising of the space, we can now offer 77 months annually. The Artists-in-Residence are selected among approximately 300 applicants by CS's selection committee, assisted by Nordic artist organisations. Artistic quality is the most significant criteria in the selection. The number of residency artists admitted varies depending on the granted stay duration (1–3 months).

In 2018 CS received 304 applications for the period October 2018 to September 2019. The applications were received directly via our application form on www.circoloscandinavo.it.



APPLICATIONS RECEIVED 2018 - 2019

CS's internal selection committee did the evaluation online. The committee consists of the artists on the Board of CS, under the chairmanship of the Director. 59 artists or 19,5% of the applicants were admitted as artists-in-residence.



ARTISTS SELECTED FOR THE YEAR 2018- 2019

All residency months start with a breakfast meeting where the artists get to know each other and the staff. During the informal meeting we go through practical things about the residency. After the meeting, the director gives a popular walking tour around the neighbourhood, giving practical tips about living in Rome.

During the year, we organised 15 Artist Talks called MEET THE ARTISTS. The talks were held in an informal and friendly atmosphere and included small refreshments, making the evenings an excellent occasion for networking and making new professional connections and acquaintances. Approximately over 700 visitors came to our open events and meetings. In addition to the Meet the Artist we also organised several side events.

In April, we held a jazz concert with the Swedish singer and violinist Sinikka Thörn and musician David Bäck. Together Thörn and Bäck played jazz with a modern, Swedish tone.

In May CS held a special event dedicated to Nordic Video Art at The Nordic Film Fest in Rome. The festival was organised by the Nordic embassies in Rome together with Circolo Scandinavo. The works of our artists-in-residence Janne Talstad (NO), Ásdís Gunnarsdóttir (IS), Gisle Marten Mayer (NO), Endre Aalrust (NO), Helinä Hukkataival (FI) and Christine Istad, (NO) were presented. This was the 6th time CS organises special events, and it has become a vital part of the festival. Also as a part of the festival's special events, in collaboration with the Swedish embassy, the film director and CS artist-in-Residence in April and May, Björn Runge held a special presentation of his latest film, the Wife, featuring Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce.

In August 2018 CS lent out 12 portraits by the Danish Artist Carl Bloch from the art collection to be part of an exhibition dedicated to his work at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art in Utah, USA.

Carl Bloch is best known for his masterful paintings of religious and historical subjects. After establishing himself as the most notable Danish painter of his time, Bloch turned his attention to printmaking —a new artistic frontier through which he could consummately pursue his artistic mastery of light, forms, and narrative. In the final ten years of his career, Bloch produced 74 etchings and set a new standard for printmaking in his native country.

This exhibition featured 60 etchings and rare portrait sketches by Carl Bloch.

(Text from their website) The exhibition ended in January 2019.



In October two residency artists hosted a Listening walk in Trastevere. The walk was produced, provided and guided by the Finnish sound artists, Simo and Tuike Alitalo. The listening walk was a group walk, and the guides had planned the route in advance. The purpose was to open or clear our ears, learn to listen anew and give us a new perspective to our surroundings.



In December Circolo hosted the Cosmonauti Open house and "aperitivo". The event was organised by the artists-in-residence of December, Annikki Wahlöö (SE) and Alicja Ziolko (NO). Cosmonauti is an international festival for open rehearsals for all performing arts, which has been organised as an annual traveling event for 12 editions. In December both artists also organised an open rehearsal of their performance PlatonPlatina #3 - Roma edition. The performance explored the possibilities of Platon's dialogue Lesser Hippias, which deals with the paradox of what "the good person" is - that it is the one who voluntarily wrongs, based on Platon's text and mixes expressions theatre and badminton. An article about this performance was published on the website of Universitá di Trento.

Organisation and communication

Staff

The contract of the Director expired in September 2018 and was extended until September 2020. The last few years CS has participated in an internship collaboration with the Swedish Cultural Foundation (Svenska kulturfonden) in Finland. This collaboration is of vital importance to the daily well-being and professional benefits of the residency artists. This year we changed the start of the program, so it starts in September instead of January to make the transition easier for the intern.

Communication

The website www.circoloscandinavo.it is constantly evolving. In 2018 we introduced a blog section where we publish interviews with the artist staying here. This is also an effective way to increase the visibility of CS on our social media platforms. We also regularly post from the events and about the daily life here at the residency. On Facebook, we have 3.275 followers and on Instagram 575 followers. We also send out information about CS activities to our mailing list that has over 1.600 subscribers.

Members

By the end of 2018 CS had 155 members, 128 individual members and 27 association members. Members residing in Rome in 2018 have frequently taken part in the offers of the cultural programme, and thus had personal contact with CS and the artists-in-residence.



The Board

The Board had two meetings in 2018, one in March and one in September. The September meeting was partly held at the Norwegian Institute as part of a collaboration between the Nordic institutes and CS. The General Assembly was held in March. The board continued its work on the strategic plan and visions for the future. The result of that work was, for example, several meetings with cultural ministers in the Nordic countries, adding a new room for the artists and preparing for a new director in 2020.

Board members:

- Tarja Cronberg, PhD, writer Chair
- Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, director IS Vice-chairman*
- Marianne Pade, director of the Danish Institute in Rome**
- Susanna Tavazzi, counsellor, Embassy of Sweden***
- Janne Giese, filmdirector DK
- Björn Ross, artist DK/SE
- Juha Ruusuvuori, writer Fl
- Lars Strandh, visual artist NO
 - * representing the Nordic Council of Artists
 - ** representing the Nordic Institutes in Rome
 - *** representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome

Substitute members: Petri Kaivanto, composer and musician FI and Peter Brandt, visual artist DK.

Staff Ingo Arnason Director Kristiina Teppo Intern, January - June Oona Haapamäki Intern, September - (her mandate ends in July 2019)

Reviews:

"I was happy to particiate at the Meet The Artists night where I presented my work and I was surprised to see how many showed up and the positive feedback I got and good conversation I had with some of the guests afterwards. "

Thuridur Jónsdóttir Composer, Iceland

"Circolo Scandinavo är en unik plats för skapande och arbetsintensiteten i rummen omkring smittar av sig."

Magnus Westerberg Författare, Sverige





"Vi var som en familj. De intellektuella diskussionerna på kvällarna var mångsidiga och pågick in sent på natten."

Hillel Tokazier Pianist, kompositör, musiker Finland

"These two months have been the happiest and most productive in many years. The peace and quiet here, as well as the adult and professional companionship."

Kenneth Krabat, Poet Denmark

"...my stay at Circolo Scandinavo quite unexpectedly – and thanks to the remarkable kindness of the personnel – ended up being of unique importance to the development of my project."

Jarkko Hartikainen composer Finland



"Circolo Scandinavo is a fantastic opportunity for cultural exchange and to learn more on Italian culture and politics. I am grateful I have had the opportunity."

Karl Ingar Røys, visual artist Norway

" My stay in Circolo made it possible to dive deep in to the process, and also the meetings with the other artists in the house, our discussions and feedback on eachothers processes has been extremely valuable to the workprocess. It's simply a gift to be able to concentrate on a project in this way, by retreating at the Circolo and the very inspiring surroundings."

Puk Scharbau Actress, Denmark





Events 2018

Meet the Artists 17.1 19.00

Carina Burman, Swedish writer Ingrid Aarset, Norwegian textile artist Kenneth Krabat, Danish poet and writer Lene Therese Teigen, Norwegian playwright, novelist and theatre director Magnus Westerberg, Swedish writer Thuridur Jónsdóttir, Icelandic musical composer

Meet the Artists 20.2 19.00

Anne Helgesen, Norwegian writer and playwrigh Hillel Tokazier, Finnish pianist, musician and composer Ingrid Aarset, Norwegian textile artist Kenneth Krabat, Danish poet and writer Puk Scharbau, Danish actress and writer

Meet the Artists 22.3 19.00

Henni Kitti, visual artist & writer | Finland Janne Talstad, visual artist | Norway Jarkko Hartikainen, composer | Finland Kirsten Justesen, sculptor | Denmark Ragnar Helgi Ólafsson. visual artist & writer | Iceland Roddy Bell, visual artist | Norway

Jazz at Circolo 4.4 19.00

Jazz concert held by Swedish singer and violinist Sinikka Thörn and musician David Bäck. Together Thörn and Bäck form a duo playing jazz with a modern, Swedish tone.

Meet the Artists part 1, 11.4 19.00

Hanne Mailand, painter I Denmark Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo, writer I Finland Pétur Gunnarsson, writer I Iceland





Meet the Artists part 2, 18.4 19.00

Björn Runge, film director & writer | Sweden Jan Hietala, artist & architect | Sweden Lone Falster, film director | Denmark

Video art at the NFF ROMA 5.5 16.00

As part of the Nordic Film Fest 2018, Circolo Scandinavo will show six pieces of artwork by Nordic film artists at Casa del Cinema. The artists have all been part of the artist-in-residence programme at Circolo Scandinavo.

Janne Talstad - Video art | Norway Ásdís Gunnarsdóttir - Video art | Iceland Gisle Marten Mayer - Video/sound art | Norway Endre Aalrust - Experimental documentary | Norway Helinä Hukkataival - Video art | Finland Christine Istad - Video art | Norway

Meet the Artists 16.5 19.00

Ingeborg Stana, visual artist | Norway Jacob Hirdwall, dramatist, director | Sweden Jan Nåls, scriptwriter | Finland Pirjo Toikka, playwright, scriptwriter | Finland

Concert at Circolo! 23.5 19.00

A Dansih Soprano Anne Birgitte Maj's concert together with pianist Manilo Pinto. The program includes pieces from Bellini, Rossini, Chopin, Liszt, Gade, Grieg, Mozart and Rachmaninov.

Meet the Artists 26.6 19.00

Cæcilia Trier – Film director, scriptwriter | Denmark Doris Bloom – Painter | Denmark Magnus Westerberg – Writer | Sweden



Meet the Artists 23.7 20.30

Bodil Persson - Dramaturg I Sweden Arnbjørn Ólavsson Dalsgarð - Writer I Faroe Island Marit Linberg - Visual artist I Sweden Guðný Kristmannsdóttir - Visual artist I Iceland

Meet the Artists 18.9 19.30

Tone Myskja I Norwegian Visual Artist Meeri Pulakka I Finnish Classical Singer Jarkko Hartikainen I Finnish Composer Vibeke Vasbo I Danish Author Eeva-Liisa Puhakka I Finnish Multidisciplinary Artist

Meet the Artists 16.10 20.00

Simo Alitalo I Finnish Sound Artist Tuike Alitalo I Finnish Writer, Artist Sidsel Carré I Danish Painter

Listening walk in Trastevere 19.10 15.00

The walk is produced, provided and guided by Finnish sound artists, Simo and Tuike Alitalo. They are in Rome in Circolo Scandinavo's Artist in Residence Program. Listening walk is provided as a group walk and guides have planned the route beforehand. The purpose is to open or clear our ears, learn to listen anew and give us a new perspective to our surroundings.

Meet the Artists 23.10 19.30

Charlotte Inuk, Danish writer Bente Bøyesen, Norwegian Visual artist Trudi Jaeger, Norwegian Visual artist Eeva-Liisa Puhakka, Finnish Multidisciplinary artist





Meet the Artists 13.11 19.30

Ágúst Guðmundsson, Film director from Iceland Bente Bøyesen, Visual artist from Norway Juha Valkeapää, Vocal artist from Finland

Meet the Artists 20.11 19.00

Sidsel Carré l Painter, Denmark Karl Ingar Røys l Visual artist Norway

Cosmonauti Open house and aperitivo 9.12 18.00

In the frame of artistic residence of Annikki Wahlöö and Alicja Ziolko at Circolo Scandinavo in Rome, with their project Platon Platina #3, we are happy to invite to open house & aperitivo with a presentation of the artists and their work at past editions through video-screenings and possible live surprises.

Meet the Artists 11.12 19.00

Alicja Ziolko Performance artists from Norway Annikki Wahlöö, Performance artists from Sweden Christofer Bocker, playwright from Sweden Cindy Lynn Brown Poet from Denmark Kenneth Krabat, Poet from Denmark

PlatonPlatina #3 - Roma edition 30.12 17.00

The performance explores the possibilities of Platon's dialogue Lesser Hippias, which deals with the paradox of what "the good person" is - that it is the one who voluntarily wrongs, based on Platon's text and mixes expressions theatre and badminton. Annikki Wahlöö (Stockholm), Alicja Ziolko (Oslo) idea and interpretation Hector Eguia, dramaturg and video maker (Messico / Stockholm) Grete Sneltvedt, dialogue coach (Åland Isles)





A big thank you to Oona Haapamäki for the majority of the photos used in this report.



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

Circolo Scandinavo är det äldsta nordiska kulturinstitutet utomlands och efter 150 framgångsrika år i Rom fortsätter Circolo vara av stor betydelse som en stödande plattform för nordiska konstnärer från olika områden. Huvudmålsättningen är att skapa en samnordisk miljö, att utvidga dialogen mellan konstnärer från olika områden och att bygga broar mellan erfarna konstnärer och dem som precis börjat sin artistiska resa. Circolo Scandinavos välkomnar nordiska artister, ger dem tillgång till den europeiska konsten och arkitekturen och hjälper att öka samarbetet mellan artister från olika områden, kulturer och länder. Samtidigt främjas kunskapen om Norden och det nordiska i Italien och Rom.

Artist-in-residence programmet har visat sig vara en succé vilket bekräftas av det årligen stigande antal ansökningar från samtliga nordiska länder. 2018 fick Circolo 303 ansökningar av högt kvalificerade professionella konstnärer. Behovet av ett gemensamt nordiskt residens är omfattande och Rom bidrar med oändlig inspiration och artistisk rikedom. Intresset för det nordiska och skandinaviska är stort i Italien och det öppnar upp för kontakt med konstkretsarna i Rom. Den värdefulla kontakten med andra nordiska artister ger ofta upphov till livslång vänskap och samarbete, Circolos värdefulla porträttsamling är ett tecken på detta.

Circolo Scandinavo är en aktiv samarbetspartner och organisatör av det årliga evenemanget Nordic Film Fest i Rom som i år hade ett rekordstort antal besökare. Circolo samarbetar också med andra lokala och nordiska aktörer inom kulturlivet i Rom och ordnar egna evenemang som är öppna för allmänheten. Museet för samtidskonst, MACRO, har blivit en viktig samarbetspartner och Circolo kan tillsammans med de egna artisterna ordna kulturevenemang i deras utrymmen. Interaktionen med den italienska publiken har således ökat år för år.

År 2016 utförde Paavo Hohti, den före detta VD:n för Finska Kulturstiftelsen, en analys av Circolo Scandinavos framtid. I studien framför han ett antal modeller för att utöka, effektivera och fortsätta utveckla verksamheten. Av de tre modeller som han föreslår, har Circolo valt att välja medelvägen som består av att utveckla verksamheten, hålla kurser för nordiska konstnärer samtidigt som vardagssysslorna i residenset fortsätter som vanligt för artisterna. Circolo har inte möjlighet att satsa på att bli ett fullskaligt kulturcentrum men väljer att fortsätta utvecklas enligt de finansiella möjligheter som ges.

Circolo Scandinavo hyr 350 kvm av Accademia dei Lincei, den italienska vetenskapsakademin. Byggnaden står granne till Villa Farnesina och ligger mittemot Palazzo Corsini, känt för att ha varit drottning Kristinas hem var hon tillbringade de sista 35 åren av sitt liv. Personalen består av Direktören Ingo Arnason samt en praktikant som erhåller ett stipendium av Svenska Kulturfonden i Finland. Circolo har gradvis utökat sin verksamhet och erbjuder nu sju rum istället för tidigare fem, en ökning från 55 residensmånader till 77 som motsvarar en ökning på 40%. Samarbetet med MACRO erbjuder Circolo och dess artister nya möjligheter till utställningsutrymmen och en ny målgrupp besökare

Circolo skulle med utökade resurser ha potential att bli en än mer synlig aktör i Rom. Som en utvidgning av aktiviteterna skulle mer djupgående master classes och andra tillfälliga kurser och evenemang ordnas, som specifikt skulle fokusera på nordiska konstnärer. Dessa kurser skulle utföras vid sidan om Artist-in-residence programmet. Med dessa förbättringar och framtidsplaner följer en del utmaningar. De som jobbar för

Circolo Scandinavo vill höja insatserna och lyfta Circolo till nästa nivå. Föreningen är villig att arbeta hårt för att få verksamheten att rulla men med fler rum följer större press på de utrymmen som Circolo besitter och behovet av ytterligare understöd blir oundvikligt. För att stärka föreningens ekonomi har styrelsen valt att höja hyran på rummen med ca 10 % från och med nästa ansökningsperiod. Med ökade resurser kunde utrymmena i byggnaden från 1500-talet renoveras för att uppfylla en modern, enkel standard. Med ytterligare resurser kunde också verksamheten utvecklas så att t.ex. master classerna kunde bidra till mer synlighet, utökad verksamhet och mer utmaningar.

För tillfället står Nordiska Ministerrådet för den största finansieringen av verksamheten, andra mindre inkomster består av sponsorer och hyran från artisterna. Tidigare utgjorde kontraktunderstöden till Circolo Scandinavo 80 % av budgeten och resterande 20 % kom från hyrorna och andra intäkter. I dagsläget är förhållandet 64 % understöd och 36 % annan finansiering. Om det tidigare kontraktet upptas kan Circolo Scandinavo fortsätta utvecklas och bli en allt tydligare nordisk mötesplats.

Föreningens nuvarande direktör Ingo Arnasons kontrakt löper ut i augusti 2020 och rekryteringsprocessen för att anställa en ny direktör kommer att behöva understöd.

Renovering:

Rummen är i behov av ytrenovering, väggar behöver målas och hål repareras. En del nya möbler behövs och värmesystemet behöver underhållas för att möta modern standard. Ett nytt kök installeras i den separata studion. I enlighet med hyreskontraktet faller dessa uppgraderingar på hyresgästen medan hyresvärden sköter t.ex. fönster, fasad och takterrass. Uppskattade kostnader: 30 000€ Circolo Scandinavo 2.0: Ökade resurser ger Circolo Scandinavo möjligheten att nå nästa nivå när ökad planering och ytterligare insatser kan läggas på att få t.ex. nordiska konstnärer att komma till Rom och hålla master classes. Föreningen ämnar följa Paavo Hohtis analys för att förstärka verksamheten och då behövs medel för planering och utförande. Uppskattade årliga kostnader: 40 000€



