



CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO
Skandinavisk Forenings Kunstnerhus i Rom

Annual *report*



2019

“Times they are a-changin’... “

There is no doubt that times are changing for Circolo Scandinavo, but that is no news since it has been subject to constant change throughout its history of 160 years.

The current change is marked by several projects that the board has been working on for some time, their conclusion has delivered promising results and due to that, we are convinced that Circolo’s future is even brighter than we had dared hope when we gathered for the General Assembly 2019.



One important achievement is the result of our communication with The Nordic Council of Ministers concerning the sensitive economic situation of Circolo Scandinavo. The Council has reacted positively to our wishes for increased funding in the immediate future as well as granting a special support for the renovation of the premises in Via della Lungara, which will take place later this year. It is of the utmost importance to us to be able to perform necessary maintenance on the artists' housing in order to ensure their comfort during their stay in the residency.

Another important milestone in the development of Circolo’s activities will follow the board’s appointment of a new director, Marie Kraft, who will join us later this summer leading Circolo Scandinavo on to new and exciting paths. While we are filled with anticipation, this is a bittersweet moment as we prepare ourselves to bid Ingo Árnason farewell as well as his wonderful family who have been a vital part of Circolo’s existence for almost eight years. We can certainly be grateful for the resilience and endurance of Ingo in the face of difficult circumstances, an economic recession among other turbulences, and I know I speak on behalf of the whole board when I send him and his family our heartfelt wishes for a creative and a bright future.

Now is also a good time to mention our constant appreciation for the continued support we receive from Svenska Kulturfonden in Finland in the form of the most efficient interns, who have proven to be vital pillars of the development of Circolo Scandinavo’s activities for decades. Last but certainly not least, I would like to express the boards’ gratitude to Nordic artists for their increasing interest in our organization. It is rewarding to be able to support their urge to expand the boundaries of the arts in this Nordic community we have been given the mandate to sustain in the midst of the ever-inspiring Roman culture.

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir

Chair of the Board of Circolo Scandinavo



Circolo Scandinavo

(Skandinavisk Forenings Kunstnershus) in Rome works to enhance mobility, networking, and production by offering a Nordic residency program in Rome for 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 basis for broader international cooperation and exposure. The program by CS is rooted in a Nordic network: political, cultural, economic, organizational and artistic.

Who we are

Circolo Scandinavo is a Nordic artist residency in Rome, with a history of 160 years. At the residency artists from the Nordic countries are given a space to create their art in an inter-Nordic environment. Our current location is next to Villa Farnesina and lies opposite to Palazzo Corsini, which is known as the home of the Swedish Queen Kristina, who spent the last 35 years of her life there.

What we do

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



BOARDS ACTIVITIES

The board of CS held three board meetings and one annual meeting during 2019. Beside the meetings the board had active communication online about the activities of CS. The first board meeting was held on the 25th and the 26th of March where preparations for the search for a new director was organized. The board also prepared to communicate with the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) about the possibility to increase the funds for CS activities. The third matter was to prepare the transaction for a new board and a new chair since the chair for 2018-2019 Tarja Cronberg and two board members Janne Giese and Juha Ruusuvoori were not running for re-election. Also, the appointed members of the board; Marianne Pade, for the Nordic Institutes in Rome, Susanne Tavazzi, for the Nordic embassies in Rome and Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, for the Nordic artist organizations, had all finished their term.

During the annual meeting on the 26th of March a new board was elected. New appointed members were Christopher Prescott (NO) for the Nordic Institutes in Rome, Hilla Okkonen (FI) for the Nordic embassies in Rome and Mia Törnqvist (SE) for the Nordic Artist organization. Eight candidates were up for an election for 5 positions in the board and two candidates for substitute member. The elected board members are: Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir (IS), Lars Strandh (NO/SE), Sanna Tahvanainen (FI), Björn Ross (DK/SE), Lone Falster (DK). Substitute members are Kari Steinhaus (NO) and Hanne Herrman (NO). After the annual meeting, the newly elected board held a meeting where they elected Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir as the Chair of the board and Lars Strandh as vice chair.



The third board meeting of the year was held on the 14th and 15th of October. The board selected a working group to go through the applications for the new director and to conduct the interviews. The working group consisted of Halldórsdóttir, Ross and Falster.

NCM

CS has been in close dialog with NCM to increase the funding for CS and in 2019 the board continued meeting with officials from NCM. In May the chair of the board, Halldórsdóttir, had a meeting at CS with three senior officials from the NCM, Karitas Gunnarsdóttir, chair of the Committee of Senior Officials for Culture, Mikael Höysti, Head of Department (Culture and Resources) and Annika Söderlund, Senior Adviser (Culture and Resources). The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the challenges and needs of CS and thoughts about the future. In December 2019 NCM accepted the boards proposals to grant CS with 30 000€ for renovations and repairs and to increase the yearly contribution with 40 000€.

NEW DIRECTOR

The announcement for the position for a new director was sent out in June with a deadline in September. We received a total of 57 applications, from which the board selected 12 candidates for interviews in Rome and Copenhagen. The board, after a thorough process, selected Marie Kraft from Sweden as the new director. Marie Kraft is an architect and has worked for cultural institutions as well as a freelancer with various architectural assignments. She has also worked as a scenographer for theatre. Among her many projects are restoration and transformation of historical buildings, as well as development of projects around art in urban settings, installations and scenography in public space, cultural events and performances. With a part-time position at the Swedish institute in Paris during more than twenty years, and several shorter missions at Villa San Michele at Capri and The Baltic centre for writers and translators in Visby,



Marie has gained an experience in institutional management and administration of hosting artists and researchers in residence. Marie's relation to the Italian cultural life started already during her studies in architecture when she developed her last year project in Venice. In recent years Marie has taken part in the organisation of several official cultural events in Italy, assisting the Swedish Embassy in Rome with connections to Swedish artists and Italian collaborators. She will start working 1st of July 2020.

EVENTS

MTA

Throughout the year we organized artists talks "MEET THE ARTISTS" with the artists-in-residence. We organized 17 events in 2019, with the participation of 55 artists and approximately 500 people attending. 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.

"LIVIA'S ROOM

Reception and presentation + work-in-progress-performance "

Livia's Room is a collaboration between our artists-in-residence Lene Therese Teigen writer/director (NO), Ingrid Aarset textile artist (NO) and Þuríður Jónsdóttir composer (IS) that met here at CS in 2015. In 2019 they came back to continue their work.



Livia's Room» is an interdisciplinary art project inspired by Livia's subterranean room from Prima Porta. The room has frescoes on all walls: A grand variety of species of trees, bushes, flowers and birds in a forest landscape of bluish-turquoise colours and is now exhibited at Palazzo Massimo alle Terme/The National Museum in Rome. The garden room was likely a cool retreat in the hot summer months in the roman period for Livia, the emperor Augustus' wife. She was a central advisor for her husband and did not keep the boundaries for what a woman should and could do. Her reputation as one of the most evil women in world history is based on texts written by historians from the roman period, who could not accept that women had power. With a reference to Virginia Woolfs «A room of one's own» we are making the room into the main character, and the base for a time expanding story about the position of women both now and then. We want to create atmosphere and situation through text, sound, textile and bodies, and will invite to sensual experiences as well as time expansion. The audience will be taken inside and outside a changing room which will embrace past and present, sense and sensibility, space for breathing and for action.

Writer/director: Lene Therese Teigen, Textile artist: Ingrid Aarset, Composer: Þuríður Jónsdóttir, Livia-Expert: Lovisa Brännstedt, Light Designer: Thomas Bruvik, Dramaturge: Elin Grinaker, Performers: Idun Vik, Tiril Pharo, Ameli Isungset Agbota, Lisa Colette Bysheim and Sverre Breivik.

CONCERTO DA SALOTTO

In February two of our artists-in-residence were composers, Osmo Tapio Räihälä (FI) and Thuridur Jónsdóttir (IS). For the MTA-event in February they invited two Italian musicians to perform together with them, the clarinettist Alice Cortegiani who performed a live piece by Räihälä and the Violinist Egida Zeneli who performed a piece by Jónsdóttir.



BOOK PRESENTATIONS

In March, we had two book presentations, both traveling books. Hugo Flaten from Norway presented his book "Roma piazzaenes by" and in June the Norwegians Gro Hartun and Lill Vibe Simonsen presented their book "Å reise i Ibsens Italia".

NORDIC FILM FEST ROMA 2019

The Nordic Embassies in Rome and CS continue to have a productive collaboration and the highlight of the year was the Nordic Film Fest Roma held in May, where CS presented a program of films and short films by the artist-in-residence.

Pia Andell from Finland presented three short films: "RECORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS", "MATCHEN" and "A HALT". Cecilia Gärding from Sweden presented her film "WE ARE LIKE ORANGES" and the film is part of the Eleza project, a project that promotes the participation of Afro-Swedish youth in development in Sweden.

RECORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Records and Photographs is a film about 16-year-old Martta, who learns to see.

Martta (Maissi Heikkilä) and her mother Anne (Milka Ahlroth) are clearing out the apartment where Martta's grandfather died. She doesn't take a lot with her, but the things she does take turn out to be significant in a way she didn't expect. Coincidence? Maybe not.

Pia Andell's short film is a growth story and a story about the changing relationship between mother and daughter, a story pushed towards its destination by an old film camera. It also contains a mystery. Can anyone ever really know everything about another person's life? Or even the things that matter?

MATCHEN

Two middle-aged women on a tennis court. One experienced, the other one not so much. One-hour match. The psychological game starts. How to respond to that? Keeping your calm? Breathing and going in your mind to your safe place? There are instances where mere breathing does not fix things. Match is a film about indirect and direct aggression and how to finally express suppressed feelings.



A HALT

A comic moment when two ex-lovers meet for a short moment at a bus stop.

WE ARE LIKE ORANGES

(Vi är som apelsiner - 2012)

directors: Joachim Ljungquist e Cecilia Gärding

The film is a modern Alice in Wonderland story where Sweden's racist past, broken friendships and neglecting grown-ups become the leading factors to the dangers of hate-crime. The film can be described as an Alice in Wonderland- inspired saga. In the film we meet Josef, a young Afro-Swede in high school who, during a lesson, ends up in a dream world where he travels in time and meets people who contributed to the perception of racism in Sweden. The film addresses the consequences of his journey when racist classmates decide to take revenge as his new-found knowledge is seen a betrayal of the Sweden they know. The film also depicts how ethnic Swedes have been subjected to racism as well as how people in Sweden have worked against racism. The film is unique in addressing the less known parts of Swedish history. The main purpose is to demonstrate that it is possible to stop hate crimes through increased knowledge and that it is up to the individual to stand up for what is right.

During the film festival, the artists also took part in an event organized in collaboration with the association of Italian screenwriters, WGI - Writers Guild Italia, and a meeting with Italian producers and distributors. This collaboration emphasized the unique possibilities of CS unique Nordic platform in Italy for a common branding of Nordic art and culture, which will be a valuable complement to individual national cultural promotion and collaboration programs.



MID-SUMMER RECITAL: WORK IN PROGRESS.

"allt bra arbete börjar med en paus"

In June, the Finnish composer Lauri Supponen together with the Finnish violinist Eriikka Maalismaa presented: Mid-summer recital: Work in progress. "allt bra arbete börjar med en paus" Picea (working title) New work for Eriikka Maalismaa.

We, the internationally acclaimed virtuoso Eriikka Maalismaa and composer Lauri Supponen, have been working together at the Circolo Scandinavo residency for one week. Our aim is to create a new, large-scale work for solo violin. In this concert, we are happy to present a demo of our work in progress. Our themes include the anatomy of the violin, discovering the reasons behind personifying the inanimate, as well as creating an alternative history for Maalismaa's instrument.

MACRO ASILO

- MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART OF ROME

3 artists related to Circolo presented their work in collaboration with Asilo Macro

"SILVAE" OPERA LIVE E VIDEO ART.

In January the Finnish visual artist Paavo Halonen AiR January 2019, presented his work "Silvae" Opera live e video art.

SISYPHUS - A ONE WEEK DRAWING PERFORMANCE AND EXHIBITION

In September the visual artist Lars Strandh and CS board member presented his work:ù

PLATONPLATINA BACK IN ROME!

19 and 20 October Alicja Ziolkó, performer (NO) and Annikki Wahlöö, SE AiR December 2018 returned to Rome and presented their show at PlatonPlatina Macro that they presented at Circolo in December 2018.



FESTIVAL EQUILIBRIO 2019, AURORA BOREALE A ROMA - AUDITORIUM PARCO DELLA MUSICA

26 March 2019 The Icelandic composer and musician, *Thurídur Jónsdóttir* - AiR feb 2019 - performed at the music and dance festival *Equilibrio 2019* dedicated to the Nordic countries

VISITS

All residency months starts with a breakfast meeting where the artists get to know each other, and we go through practical things about the residency. Afterwards the director gives a popular walking tour around the neighbourhood. The walk includes practical tips about living in Rome and important cultural and historical places in the neighbourhood.

We also organize visit with the artists-in-residence to museums and foreign Academies in Rome. This year we have visited for instance the Finnish Institute in Rome and the American Academy in Rome. In October CS took part in an international lunch at the French Academy along with other international artists-in-residence.

As always, we received a lot of visitors in 2019 from artists, school groups, tourist groups, Nordic ministers, ambassadors and officials. We have had for example students from the Ibsen master course at The University of Oslo and tourist groups following the footsteps of Nordic artists such as the writer *Sigrid Undset*. We also get frequent visits from researchers visiting our archives. These visits have been of great value and are always highly appreciated.



AIR 2019 - 2020

Circolo Scandinavo offers 77 Artists-in-Residence months to Nordic Artists. In 2019 we received a total of 291 applications for the period October 2019 - September 2020. The applications were received directly via our application form on www.circoloscandinavo.it. The selection is made by an CS evaluation board, assisted by Nordic artist organizations and the Director. Artistic quality is the most significant criteria in the selection. In total 59 artists, out of 291 were selected for the 77 AiR-months. The number of residency artists admitted varies depending on the granted stay duration 1-3 months.



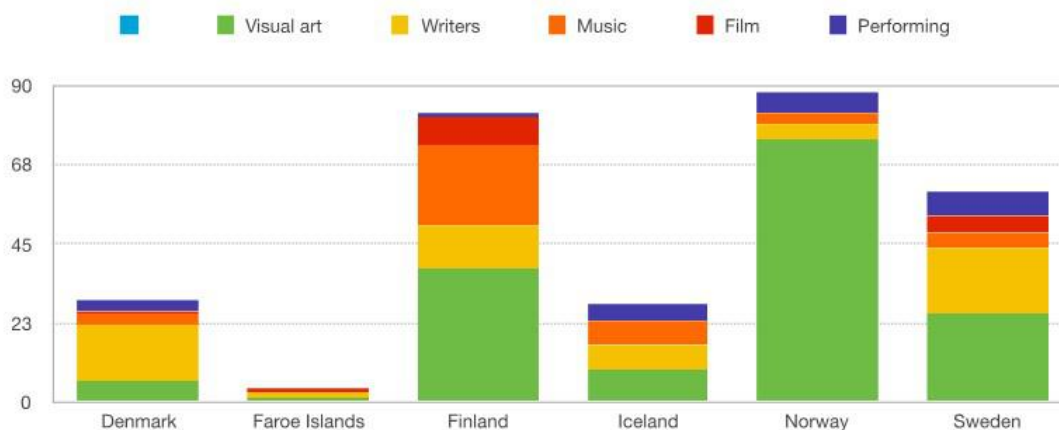
CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

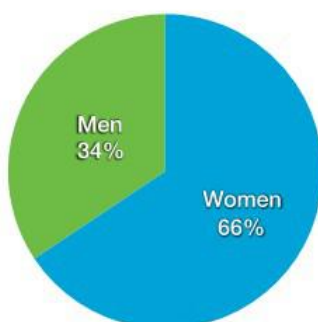
2019 - 2020

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

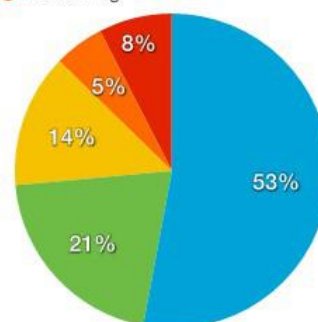
COUNTRY	APPLICATIONS	MEN	WOMEN	VISUAL ART	WRITERS	MUSIC	FILM	PERFORMING
Denmark	29	10	19	6	16	3	1	3
Faroe Islands	4	3	1	1	2		1	
Finland	82	31	51	38	12	23	8	1
Iceland	28	9	19	9	7	7		5
Norway	88	28	60	75	4	3		6
Sweden	60	19	41	25	19	4	5	7
TOTAL	291	100	191	154	60	40	15	22



Denmark (blue), Faroe Islands (green), Finland (yellow), Iceland (orange), Norway (red), Sweden (purple)



Visual art (green), Writers (yellow), Music (orange), Film (red), Performing (blue)





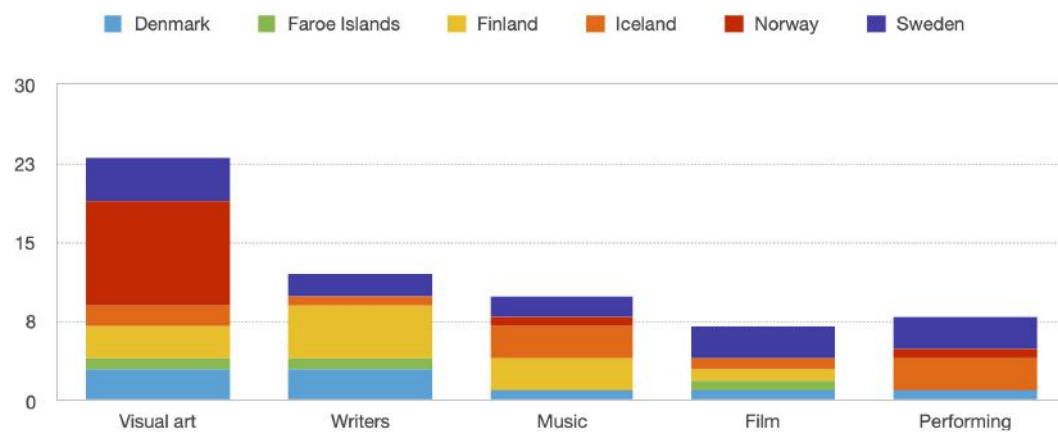
CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO

Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

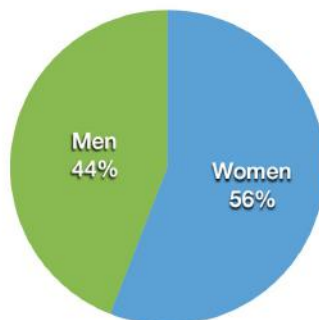
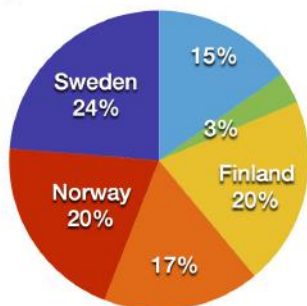
2019 - 2020

AiR selected

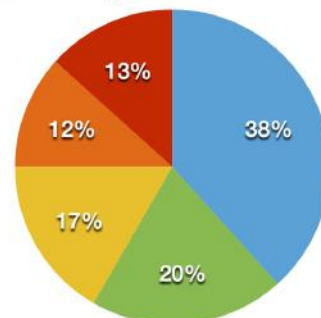
COUNTRY	ARTISTIS	RES. MONTHS	MEN	WOMEN	VISUAL ART	WRITERS	MUSIC	FILM	PERFORMING
Denmark	9	13	5	4	3	3	1	1	1
Faroe Islands	2	4	2	0	1	1		1	
Finland	12	20	8	4	3	5	3	1	0
Iceland	10	11	4	6	2	1	3	1	3
Norway	12	18	5	7	10	0	1	0	1
Sweden	14	18	2	12	4	2	2	3	3
TOTAL	59	84	26	33	23	12	10	7	8



Denmark Faroe Islands
Finland Iceland
Norway Sweden



Visual art Writers
Music Film
Performing







COMMUNICATION

The website www.circoloscandinavo.it is our main source of communication, there you can find all information about our activities, interviews with the artists-in-residence and all communication to our members as well as information about the boards administrative work.

We are also active on social media our Facebook page has 3.556 followers, our Twitter account has 211 followers and our Instagram account has 836 followers. We also send out information about our activities to our mailing list that has 1.616 subscribers.

MEMBERS

By the end of 2019 we had 165 members, 130 individual members and 35 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

- *Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir*, director IS - Chair
- *Lars Strandh*, visual artist NO - Vice-chair
- *Christopher Prescott*, director of the Norwegian Institute in Rome NO *
- *Hilla Okkonen*, cultural coordinator, Embassy of Finland FI **
- *Mia Tornqvist*, dramaturg, screenplay writer, translator SE***
- *Björn Ross*, visual artist DK/SE
- *Sanna Tahvanainen*, writer FI
- *Lone Falster*, Film director DK

Substitute members:

Kari Steinhaus, visual artist NO

Hanne Herrman, Writer, translator NO

* representing the Nordic Institutes in Rome

** representing the Nordic Embassies in Rome

*** representing the Nordic Council of Artists

STAFF

Ingo Arnason Director

Oona Haapamäki Intern, January - September

Tinja Räsänen Intern, september -

(her mandate ends in July 2020)



Nordic Council of Ministers



Svenska
kulturfonden