

Ministry of Culture  
Maistrova 10  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia

Friday 02 February 2018

Dear Madam/Sir,

I write on behalf of Dance Ireland in support of Nomad Dance Academy and Association of Independent Artists in Slovenia, to add our voice of interest and concern regarding the current situation affecting the contemporary art scene in Slovenia.

We are concerned about the lack of financial and structural support available and what we understand is the lack of on-going constructive dialogue with the decision-makers within the Ministry of Culture.

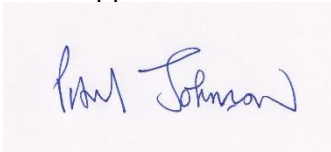
Slovenian contemporary art is a vital component of Slovene society and the global contemporary art world. We are aware that the majority of vibrant and dynamic contemporary art practices are realised in the independent, non-governmental and non-profit realm. The work of these organisations and individual artists are of immense value and a sign of a developed, democratically framed society.

Therefore any cuts, coupled by the impossibility of a constructive dialogue and the disconnection of all the key players puts future developments of contemporary arts practices in danger and also negates many wonderful past achievements.

We express concern that there is an impasse between the independent art scene and the Ministry of Culture. As colleagues and long-term partners of Nomad Dance Academy and the Association of Independent Artists, we are alarmed by the lack of transparent procedures of funding, the lack of expertise involved in the Ministry's commissions, and the Ministry's apparent unwillingness to defend the valuable and necessary position of arts and culture.

Some thoughts we would like to share, include: you consider support for enlarging the budgets available for arts and cultural activities; suggest the initiation of coherent dialogue with the independent art scene and artists; work towards an inclusive vision for the development of cultural policies, with the focus on the status and sustainability of independent art practices.

With support to the art scene in Slovenia, we send our best regards, yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Johnson".

Paul Johnson, Chief Executive

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