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Ministry of Culture
Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
gp.mk@gov.si

CC
Association of Cultural NGOs
info@asociacija.si

3 February 2018

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, Yiannis Colakides, director of NeMe, have been informed of the current situation in the contemporary art scene in Slovenia regarding the lack of structural and financial support for NGOs and the lack of constructive dialogue with the decision-makers at the Ministry of Culture in Slovenia.

The Slovenian contemporary art scene is one of the most vital segments of contemporary art globally as well as one of the most crucial and reflective segments of Slovenian society. It is evident and known to us that the great majority of contemporary art practices are implemented by the independent, non-governmental, and non-profit cultural sectors. The selfless work of these organisations and individual artists are of immense value and meaning for the global art scene, and a sign of a developed, democratically framed society. Any drastic reductions to the cultural budget and/or the subsidies to these organisations and artists, the impossibility of dialogue with the organised cultural players, and disconnection of the participants from the processes of common interest, will put in danger, not only the further development of independent culture, but also, its past achievements, and will create historical discontinuity and waste knowledge and valuable contacts that will almost be impossible to regain.

I, on behalf of NeMe, hereby express my deep concerns regarding the current events between the independent art scene and the Ministry of Culture in Slovenia. As colleagues and long-term partners of artistic associations, organisations, and artists in the independent scene from Slovenia, we are alarmed by the lack of transparent funding procedures, the lack of expertise at the Ministry's commissions and other relevant working bodies, and the Ministry's unwillingness to effectively defend the position of culture and arts in its own society.

The NeMe organisation protests over the current situation and we call for:

- The inclusion of competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes at the Ministry of Culture
- Increase of the budgets for culture, particularly for the non-profit organisations
- Re-structuring of the Ministry of Culture to achieve more coherent cultural politics in Slovenia
- The beginning of a dialogue with the independent art scene in Slovenia
- An inclusive vision for the development of cultural politics, in particular as they relate to the independent art production.

With commitment and support to the art scene in Slovenia,

Your Faithfully,

For NeMe



Yiannis Colakides
NeMe Director