

Ministry of Culture
Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, the undersigned, Jan Ritsema, director of the Performing Arts Forum (PAF) in France, am being informed about the current situation on the contemporary art scene in Slovenia: about the lack of financial and structural support for NGO's and the lack of constructive dialogue with the decision-makers on the side of the Ministry of Culture.

Slovenian contemporary art is a vital segments of contemporary art globally, as well as one of the most vital and reflective segments of Slovene society. We are aware that the great majority of contemporary art practices are realized in the independent, non-governmental and non-profit part of the scene. The work of these organizations 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 cuts, impossibility of a constructive dialogue and disconnection of the players from the scene into the processes of common interest puts in danger not only further development of these scenes, but also its past achievements, creating discontinuity and voids that are almost impossible to cure.

We hereby express deep concern in regard to the current events between the independent art scene and the Ministry of Culture. As colleagues and long-term partners of the artistic associations and organizations in the independent scene from Slovenia, we are alarmed in the first place by the lack of transparent procedures of funding, expertise of Ministry's commissions and other bodies, and the Ministry's lack of capacities to defend the position of culture and arts in its own society.

We protest over the current situation and we appeal for:

- inclusion of the competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes on Ministry of culture
- enlargement of the budgets for culture, particularly for the non-profit organizations
- re-structuring of the Ministry of Culture to achieve more coherent politics towards independent art scene in Slovenia
- beginning of dialogue with independent art scene in Slovenia
- an inclusive vision for development of cultural policies, with the focus on the status of independent art.

With commitment and support to the art scene in Slovenia, we send our best regards,

