

**Ministry of Culture**

Maistrova 10  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia

**31 January 2018**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, the undersigned Prof. Dr Ric Allsopp, Emeritus Professor of Contemporary Performance, Falmouth University, UK, am informed about the current situation on the contemporary art scene in Slovenia. My colleagues and I have been informed about the lack of financial and structural support and the lack of constructive dialogue with the decision-makers on the side of the Ministry of Culture.

Slovenian contemporary art is one of the most vital segments of the contemporary art scene 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 is of immense value and meaning for the global art scene, and a sign of a developed, democratically framed society. Any drastic cuts, the impossibility of constructive dialogue, or the disconnection of the players from the scene and the processes of common cultural interest, put in danger not only the further development of the contemporary arts and performance scenes, but also their past achievements, creating discontinuities and cultural depletions that are almost impossible to cure.

We hereby express concern and disbelief related 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, we are alarmed in the first place by the lack of procedures for funding, the lack of expertise of the Ministry's juries and other bodies, and the Ministry's lack of capacity to stand for the position of culture and arts in its own society.

We protest over the current situation and appeal for:

- enlargement of the budgets for culture
- inclusion of the competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes
- re-structuring of the positions in the Ministry of Culture

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



Prof. Dr Ric Allsopp

Emeritus Professor, Falmouth University, UK [www.falmouth.ac.uk](http://www.falmouth.ac.uk)  
Guest Professor/ HZT- University of the Arts, Berlin (2017-18) [www.hzt-berlin.de](http://www.hzt-berlin.de)  
Joint Editor - *Performance Research* [www.performance-research.org](http://www.performance-research.org) London & New York: Routledge