



RIJEKA 2020
EUROPSKA
PRIJESTOLNICA
KULTURE

**Republic of Slovenia
Ministry of Culture
Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am being informed of the current situation at 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.

Slovenian contemporary art is a vital segment of the contemporary art globally and it enables us, friends from abroad, to better understand positive values and everyday life of Slovenian society. An overwhelming majority of contemporary art practices is implemented through the independent, non-governmental and non-profit part of the scene. The work of these organisations 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 reductions, the impossibility of dialogue and disconnection of the participants from the processes of common interest at the art scenes endangers, not only further development of these scenes, but its past achievements as well and creates discontinuity and outflow of knowledge that are almost impossible to repair.

We were informed about the problems in communication between the independent art scene and the Ministry of Culture, lack of transparency and expertise in funding and decision-making in the Ministry, and the Ministry's lack of capacities to defend the position of culture and arts in its own society. As colleagues and long-term partners of the artistic associations and organizations in the independent scene in Slovenia, we hereby express deep concern regarding the current events. We are supporting our colleagues in their call for:

- the inclusion of the competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes at the 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 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, as they relate to the independent art production.

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

Emina Višnić,
C.E.O.
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