

M A S Z K

Magyarországi Alternatív Színházi Központ Egyesület

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Hungary

Ministry of Culture
Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

19 January 2022

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, the undersigned vice-president of MASZK Association, wish to express our concern and support in relation to the current situation on the contemporary art scene in Slovenia. My colleagues and I have been informed about the lack of structural support and the lack of constructive dialogue with the decision-makers on the side of Ministry of Culture.

Our association is the organizer of THEALTER international theatre festival in Szeged, Hungary, established 32 years ago. We have been following the independent performing arts scene in Slovenia for decades now and have invited many Slovenian companies and performances, including Gledališče Glej and a co-production of Maska, as well as Via Negativa, Slovensko Mladinsko Gledališče, Moment – Zavod EN-KNAP and Kud LJUD. Their productions have always been a highlight of our festivals.

So we stand by and support Maska, Emanat, Gledališče Glej, Nomad Dance Academy Slovenija, Gledališče Ana Monro, City of Women and Zavod Delak. It is impossible to imagine the landscape of Slovene contemporary art without all these organizations and their projects. We also share the same values, we all think that theatre has an important role in shaping society, we all believe in openness and tolerance, and we all support young and aspiring artists.

Slovenian contemporary art is one of the most vital segments of the 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 (just as in Hungary). 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 dialogue and disconnection of the players from the scene into the processes of common interest put in danger not only further development of these scenes, but also its past achievements, creating discontinuity and drains that are almost impossible to cure.

We hereby express our 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 of funding, expertise of Ministry's juries and other bodies, and the Ministry's lack of capacities to stand for the position of culture and arts in its own society.

We protest over the current situation and appeal for:

- inclusion of the competent professionals into the vital decision-making processes
- enlargement of the budgets for culture
- 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,

Ms Katalin Martinkovics
vice-president
MASZK Association

