

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, the undersigned, Zoltán Nagy, managing director of SÍN Arts Centre based in Budapest, wish to express my concern and support in relation to the current situation on the contemporary art scene in Slovenia. My colleagues and me 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.

We have been collaborating with the NDA Slovenija on common projects and activities and this collaboration has been always fruitful and rich. They are a very recognized group of professionals and the lack of substantial funding would lead to slow erasure of their efforts. We stand by their side and support them, as well as Emanat, Gledališče Glej, Delak Institute, Maska, City of Women and Ana Monro. It is impossible to imagine the landscape of Slovene contemporary art without all these organizations and their projects.

In the past decade we have collaborated with several of these organizations in international projects, artist exchanges, developed projects together. These partnerships have nourished both the Slovenian and Hungarian artistic landscapes, we have learnt a lot from our Slovenian colleagues, have participated in platforms presenting Slovenian artists, where numerous collaborations between Hungarian and Slovenian scenes have emerged.

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. 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 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 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

Regards,

Zoltán Nagy
Managing director
SÍN Arts Centre

Budapest