

SOPHIENSÆLE GMBH SOPHIENSTRASSE 18 10178 BERLIN

Ministry of Culture
Maistrova 10
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia



Berlin, 5th February 2018

**Letter of Support for Independent Slovenian Artists
and Art Scene**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I, the undersigned Franziska Werner, Artistic Director of Sophiensæle in Berlin, am being informed of the current situation of the contemporary art scene in Slovenia, regarding the lack of structural and financial support for NGO's, the independent structures and the artists, additional drastic cuts and the lack of constructive dialogue with the decision-makers at the Ministry of Culture.

It is known to us that the great majority of Slovenian contemporary art practices are implemented in the independent, non-governmental and non-profit part of the sector. Precisely this sector is also one of the most vital, reflective and progressive segments of a society and its cultural production.

Independent Slovenian contemporary art is a vital segment of the global contemporary art. The work of these organizations and individual artists has been recognized internationally and is also a sign of a developed, democratically framed society. Any drastic reductions, the impossibility of dialogue, the disconnection of the participants from the processes of common interest in the cultural and artistic development, put in danger, not only further development of that sector, but also, its past achievements, creating discontinuity and outflow of knowledge that are almost impossible to cure.

We hereby express deep concern in regard to the current events between the independent art sector and the Ministry of Culture. As colleagues and partners of Slovenian organizations working in that field, we are alarmed by the lack of transparent procedures of funding, lack of expertise at the Ministry's commissions and other working bodies, and the Ministry's lack of capacities to defend the position of lively culture and innovative arts in its own society.

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We support our colleague's call to the decision-makers to address pertinent issues such as:

- Inclusion of competent professionals into strategy and decision-making processes at the Ministry of culture, and their dialogue with the Slovenian independent art sector.
- Increasing budgets for culture, particularly for the non-profit organizations.
- Re-structuring the Ministry of Culture to achieve more coherent cultural politics in Slovenia.
- Developing cultural policies, in particular as they relate to the support and development of the independent artists, and their internationalization.

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

Franziska Werner
Artistic Director
Sophiensaele Berlin

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