

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF SÍM'S BOARD 2018-2019**

### **Board-, Union Commission- and Association meetings**

SÍM's board since the last general meeting in April 2019:

Anna Eyjólfsdóttir, chairman, Starkaður Sigurðarson, Rúrí, Páll Haukur Björnsson and Hlynur Helgason.

The members of SÍM are now 960, which is an increase of 80 members since the last general meeting.

The main role of SÍM's board is to represent visual artists, improve their working conditions thereby strengthening visual art as a profession, and attend to other interests of visual artists, including the operation of studios.

In 2018-2019 the SÍM board has worked on the following projects:

### **WE PAY VISUAL ARTISTS**

The campaign "WE PAY VISUAL ARTISTS" is formally over. All the official Art Museums in Iceland are now paying the artists in accordance with the Contribution Contract of SÍM.

### **ARKIV.IS**

SÍM is still working on the database arkiv.is. The aim is to finish the database early next year.

One of the purposes of ARKIV.IS is the permanent safekeeping of comprehensive information on the works and history of Icelandic artists. All members of The Association of Icelandic Visual Artists automatically have the option of joining the database.

### **THE MONTH OF VISUAL ART 2019**

The Month of Visual Art was celebrated throughout October 2019, as the year before. Various events were organized to draw attention to the artist's profession. On this occasion, artists opened their studios, presentations were held in schools around the country.

SÍM hopes that this will allow the Month of Visual Art to grow steadily as an important venue for deepening the public's knowledge of the artist's profession in Iceland.

### **TORG 2019**

TORG Art Fair Reykjavík was held for the first time in October 2018. It is held in connection with The Month of Visual Art, which is a program emphasising the importance of art for the public. TORG Art Fair provides the largest venue for the introduction and marketing of art in Iceland. It offers in one location a wide range of art, by emerging and established artists. Participants were approx. 100, many more than the year before. Professional promoter was hired which resulted in a very increased attendance since it was between 10 and 12 thousand people who visit the Art Fair in this three days.

SÍM chaired by Anna Eyjólf, is the founder and organiser of the art fair. All members of SÍM can apply for participation, individuals, groups or artists run spaces.

Next year the Art Fair will be held from 2nd October to 5th October.

The first portfolio of the interview campaign was with Pari Stafe US Head of Department from MED from New York who interviewed 40 SÍM members this raised great satisfaction among the attendees. The next curator SÍM is inviting to Iceland will be Kóan Jeff „KJ“ Baysa, who arrives in January 2020.

### **ARTÓTEK**

Artótek is a collaborative project of SÍM and Reykjavík City Library which started in 2004. SÍM overtook the operations and accounting of Artótek a year ago but Reykjavík City Library is, as before, responsible for housing, promotion and exhibitions.

Artótek has artworks by SÍM's members for hire and sale. Artótek's aim is to promote contemporary Icelandic art to the customers of Reykjavík City Library and others and give them the opportunity to easily hire or buy an artwork.

Reykjavík City Library and SÍM are now co-operatively working on strengthening the operation of Artótek, increasing the number of customers and buyers with systematic marketing and ensuring a good selection and regular renewal of artworks.

## **SÍM'S OFFICE**

Presently, there are five employees at SÍM's office in three positions. Ingibjörg Gunnlaugsdóttir, managing director, Vallý Einarsdóttir, office manager, Elma Óladóttir, bookkeeper, Martynas Petreikis, SÍM Residency project manager and Friðrik Weissshappel, property caretaker.

## **SÍM'S STUDIOS**

SÍM rents seven studio houses and subleases to its members. These houses have the total of 186 studios og 2 workshops, one operated by The Icelandic Textile Guild and the other by The Icelandic Association of Ceramic Artists. SÍM's studio houses are located at Seljavegur 32, Bríetartún 13, Hólmaslóð 4 and at Korpúlfsstaðir in Reykjavík, at Lyngás 7 in Garðabær and Auðbrekka 1 and Auðbrekka 14 in Kópavogur. Auðbrekka 1 and Hólmaslóð 4 also house storages for members. There is a great shortage of studios for members and a long waiting list for available studios.

## **SELJAVEGUR – safety- and fire inspection**

SÍM's Residency for International artists are now on the 2nd floor in SÍM's studio house at Seljavegur 32 in Reykjavík. The fire safety agency made some reprovals regarding the residency apartment on the 4th floor. In order to get the approval of fire safety inspectors, SÍM's board decided to move the residency down to the 2nd floor.

With these changes, the number of studios at Seljavegur increases, for there will be more studios on the 4th floor than will be used for the residency on the 2nd floor.

## **THE SÍM EXHIBITION SPACE**

The SÍM exhibition space, is located at SÍM's headquarters in Hafnarstræti 16, is available to members for exhibitions and other events. A call for applications from members to exhibit there is sent out once a year. The exhibition time is around three weeks, but at the end of each month, SÍM's guest artists have a group exhibition. The exhibitions have been well attended and the program is available on SÍM's home page and SÍM's Facebook page.

SÍM has started using a new exhibition space at Korpúlfsstaðir, the exhibition space is around 900 square meter big and it is available to SÍM members as well.

## **THE SÍM RESIDENCY IN REYKJAVÍK**

Around 188 International Artists participated in the residency program the current year. At the SÍM Residency at Seljavegur are 11 rooms for artists, as well as several studios. At Korpúlfsstaðir there are 3 rooms as well as good studios. Artists can stay from one up to three months and more and more artists are staying more than one month in Reykjavík. At the start of each month the group has an artistic talk in SÍM's exhibition space where everyone is welcome. At the end of each month the guest artists are invited to take part in a group exhibition at the SÍM's exhibition space for two days. An increasing number of guests attend these exhibitions, which are varied and often innovative.

SÍM had a residency exchange program in collaboration with Vaanta in Finland and Düsseldorf in Germany. SÍM also had a residency exchange program in collaboration with Kunstnerhuset in Svolvær, owned by NNKS og NNBK, associations of Norwegian artists. countries.

## **THE SÍM RESIDENCY IN BERLÍN**

SÍM has operated a residency in Berlin for its members since 2010. There are two guest rooms, Askja and Hekla, with a joint kitchen and bath. Members can apply to stay in the apartment for one month at a time. The apartment is at Friedrichshain, formerly a part of East-Berlin.

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The year 2018–2019 was both eventful and demanding. SÍM's board would like to thank all committee members that have served SÍM this year and everyone who has collaborated in the important projects of SÍM.

On behalf of SÍM's board,  
Anna Eyjólfsdóttir, chairman