



Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) - Germany

The Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) unites Germany's three most important supra-regional artist associations: Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler (Federal Association of Artists), Deutscher Künstlerbund (German Artists' Association) and GEDOK, Verband der Gemeinschaften der Künstlerinnen und Kunstförderer (Federation of Women Artists and Patrons of the Arts). The association was founded in 1957 as the German National Committee of the International Association of Art (IAA). The IGBK and its projects are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the Kulturstiftung der Länder. The current chairpersons are Annette Hollywood (speaker of the board), Prof. Ulrike Rosenbach and Werner Schaub.

Main activities in 2016 and 2017

Information and service

IGBK counsils visual artists on the possibilities of working opportunities and grants, both in Germany and abroad. Information and contact details for international exchange is provided at the IGBK webpage (www.igbk.de).

Also the IGBK office helps with formalities with respect to projects abroad and provides advice regarding administrative issues. It issues the 'International Identity Card' of the IAA (801 cards were issued in 2016, valid for 2 years).

www.touring-artists.info – The information portal for artists working internationally

Since April 2013 www.touring-artists.info, a joint project of IGBK and the German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has been online. The website offers artists information on the topics visa/residence, transport/customs, taxes, social insurance, other insurances, status of the artist/contracts, and copyright related to cross-border mobility. A database of German support schemes for international projects as well as checklists and sample documents etc. complement the information. The topics have been examined for both the visual and the performing arts.

Information is available in English and German language and is addressed to artists based in Germany and working abroad for a limited time as well as to foreign artists who come to



work in Germany temporarily. The project is supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Since the launch, IGBK, together with cooperation partners and experts, has been organizing diverse workshops and presentations throughout Germany in order to make touring artists known to the artist's scene (5 presentations/workshops in 2016, 4 presentations/workshops in 2017 so far, see list of workshops [here](#)). The activity is ongoing.

In 2014 the touring artists helpdesk service was set up, together with SmartDe. Here artists might profit from individual advice regarding their international projects and working stays abroad. The service is free of charge.

In 2015 also a forum was launched where artists and cultural professionals can share experiences directly (<http://forum.touring-artists.info>).

If you would like to receive the touring artists newsletter - launched in 2016 -, please send an email to the touring artists editorial team (info@touring-artists.info).

Representing Artists' Interests: Workshops, Symposia and Membership

IGBK organises symposia and workshops on topics of relevance to artists. IGBK invites artists, cultural politicians, scientists, and practitioners in the field of cultural mediation, art education, and the art market. With our partners we discuss topical issues concerning training in the arts, communication, identity, and the conditions and perspectives on contemporary art. Through these activities, IGBK seeks to stimulate new ideas, propose possible solutions and sharpen the vision for future-oriented concepts.

Workshop 'Social Security and Mobility of Artists in Europe'

On November 4, 2016 the IGBK and IAA Europe cooperated on an international workshop on social security and artists' mobility in Europe. The central questions to be explored were: What are the obstacles faced by artists working internationally within Europe today with regard to social security insurance issues? To what extent have the information systems for freelance artists in Europe improved over the last years?

More than 60 persons from 21 European countries took part in Berlin: IAA NCs, service points, European networks, social security organisations, the EU Commission, the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and further experts. IGBK has published an extensive report on the workshop on the [IGBK Website](#), as well as all the speakers' presentations.



60 Years of IGBK and Symposium 'Fragile Affinities - (Re)strengthening international artistic collaboration'

The IGBK celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2017. It was founded in 1957 as the German National Committee of IAA, with the aim of bringing German artists back into the international discourse.

In July 2017 IGBK board members and delegates together with companions, artists and members of partner organisations attended a talk by the Turkish curator Necmi Sönmez in Berlin. Sönmez' talk took a view of the state of the art scene in Turkey since the constitutional referendum in 2017. The Talk and reunion were at the same time an opening event to the IGBK symposium 'Fragile Affinities - (Re)strengthening international artistic collaboration', taking place November 23rd and 24th, 2017 in cooperation with Akademie der Künste in Berlin.

Fragile Affinities - (Re)strengthening international artistic collaboration

Symposium in cooperation with Akademie der Künste Berlin, 23 and 24 November, 2017

The IGBK was founded in 1957 with the aim of bringing German artists back into the international discourse. It has been the guiding idea of IGBK since its beginning to foster international collaboration amongst visual artists in all directions.

Today we are unfortunately experiencing political trends opposing to this objective, also in Europe. Against the background of nationalist movements in many countries, artists too are becoming growingly restricted in their rights to freedom or excluded from international exchange. We are concerned about the alarming developments in Turkey, the increasing erosion of democratic institutions in the EU Member States of Poland and Hungary, and the British vote to exit the EU. These examples cause us to debate the ways in which artists preserve and shape necessary spaces for their activity in times of decreasing social cohesion within Europe, as well as in some places, under political and social repression.

How do artists position themselves between activist self-instrumentalisation, their ideological exploitation by national regimes or the flight into (inner) exile? We plan to discuss ways and means of strengthening international artistic collaboration as well as maintaining and promoting opportunities for exchange and communication.

Selection of speakers: Selda Asal (Artist, Apartment Project, Berlin and Istanbul) - Lutz Dambeck (Artist, Hamburg) - Katherine Heid (Deputy Secretary General, Culture Action Europe, Brussels) - Joanna Krawczyk (Head of Polish Office, Evens Foundation, Warsaw) - Via Lewandowsky (Artist, Berlin) - Dr. Elke Ritt (Head of Arts, British Council Germany, Berlin) -



*belit saĝ (videomaker/visual artist, Amsterdam) - Andreas Schmid (Artist and Curator, Berlin) - Jeanie Scott (a-n The Artists Information Company, London) - Esther Slevogt (Theatre Critic and Managing Director, nachtkritik.de, Berlin) - Necmi Sönmez (Curator, Düsseldorf) - György Szabó (Artistic Director, Trafó House of Contemporary Arts, Budapest) - Katarzyna Wielga-Skolimowska (Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Berlin) - Claudia Zeiske (Director, Deveron Projects, Huntly) - Johanna Zinecker (Centre for British Studies, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin). **Thursday, 23 November 2017, 19-21h and Friday, 24 November 2017, 10-21h, Akademie der Künste Berlin, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin.***

Relaunch of the IGBK website

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary IGBK also presented its new website. The site has a new look and extends IGBKs services regarding competitions and scholarships, transnational and international programs, as well as networks important for the visual arts sector.

Membership at national, European and international level

IGBK is engaged with several organizations and networks, particularly at the European level. In cooperation with its partners, IGBK attempts to insure that the interests of artists are taken into consideration at relevant political and administrative decision-making levels.

The IGBK represents the German National Committee of the IAA and is – at a European level – part of the IAA Europe. From 2002 to 2008 and again since 2015 IGBK holds the presidency of IAA Europe (president Werner Schaub) and is currently in charge of the office of IAA Europe.

To improve the content-related exchange and the communication between the member organizations IGBK issues a quarterly IAA Europe newsletter and relaunched the IAA Europe website in 2016.

IGBK is also active in Culture Action Europe (www.cultureactioneurope.org) and in the artists mobility network On The Move (www.on-the-move.org). IGBK is also a member of the German UNESCO Commission and of the Kunstrat (Fine Arts Council) of Deutscher Kulturrat (German Cultural Council).

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