

## **Lithuanian Artists' Association National Annual Report 2018**

Across the European countries the social as well as legal status of the art creative differs. In one countries it is abbreviated both in law and practices of financial remuneration while in some countries there is still a long way to the art creative position as the important participant in state culture field.

Lithuania has no established state - wide system on which basis art creative could be paid fair royalties for participating in exhibitions just like for any other creative activities, although there is such practice in other culture spheres (music, theatre, etc.).

Five years ago Lithuanian Artist Association chairwoman Edita Utarienė started to work with this issue and she has been leading this initiative all these years. She has plans and ideas how to reach the goal and she is planning to continue attempting to reach changes.

In 2015 Lithuanian Artists' Association held an international conference “Institutions in Cultural Processes”. Participants from 8 different countries had given presentations on the topic. Lithuanian Artists' Association continues the campaign for the fair remuneration for visual art artists.

In compare to the pre-crisis period, the financing for culture had increased at 55.4 % and in 2018 it was bigger than in 2017. It is the achievement of the culture community commitment to the cause. In the public there was some talks, that the financing for culture sector will be cut by 17 million euro. Reacting to that, various artists and artist institutions (including Lithuanian Artists' Association), museums, galleries, etc., has signed a petition in protest. In 2018 Lithuanian Art Council had distributed 15 million 350 thousand euro for various culture initiatives from the Culture Support Fund.

Lithuanian Artists' Association is active on the campaign communication and development. Lithuanian Artist Association Delegation has met with members of the Parliaments' Committee of Culture – at first with each member separately and after that with all at once. In order to pinpoint the problem, the representatives of the Lithuanian Artists' Association talked on various panels in various media channels. To add more, Lithuanian Artists' Association has initiated and took part in an important Committee of Culture meeting, on which the remuneration for visual artists work was a priority. Chairman of the Committee as well as all the members of the Committee, along with Vice – Minister for Culture G. Žemaitytė and the advisor for Minister for Culture V. Bachmetjevas were present. During the meeting Lithuanian Artist Association Chairwoman E. Utarienė again outlined the main issues regarding the problems of the creative workers and proposed solutions. During the meeting there was a discussion about the system of remuneration for the participating in exhibitions.

A comprehensive presentation for this meeting were given by Swedish Artists' Association and Swedish Craft and Industrial Design Association lawyer Sofie Grettve. She was a part of the Swedish Council work group which prepared the law basis for the MU agreement for the remuneration for artists. Sofie Grettve still works in this field, so while presenting the situation she highlighted flexibility of the agreement – it can be made to work for any country and any financial scope. According to Sofie Grettve such model is a good integration method for any given country law base.

Many members of different generations of Lithuanian Artists' Association were present in the meeting: Rimantas Dichavičius, Daliutė Ona Matulaitė, Kotryna Džilavjan, Bronius Leonavičius, Evelina Januškaitė- Krupavičė, Jonas Varnas, Ugnė Žilytė, Vilmantas Marcinkevičius, Algirdas Griškevičius. They all appealed to the fact that art creation takes part in all parts of life – from casual packaging label design to the state coats of arms, flags. The attractiveness of the country is forged by their hands and it greatly contributes to the education of the society and the overall economic state of country. During the

meeting Lithuanian Artists' Association had emphasized that the task of state institutions, organizations and political structures is to make good conditions for the artists to create, in other words – to work and get paid fairly.

A goal of this campaign is also to reach a law that works in neighboring countries, which basis is that at least 1 percent from the money, that is given for the constructing the public buildings has to be used to create art (an installation, a mural, etc.).

On the proposition of the Chairman of the Committee it was agreed that Lithuanian Artists' Association will hold a meeting with Ministry for Culture regarding the remuneration for the artists and the initial solution for the problem drafting.

Lithuanian Artists' Association has participated in numerous international seminars and conferences. The international experience has given grounds for some rational prepositions and it can be applied in the solution of the country's cultural problems and in the shaping of the cultural policy as well. With the initiative and hard work Lithuanian Artists' Association seeks to change the status quo in the cultural infrastructure and to ensure an opportunity for open creative work. Lithuanian artists with their creative work take part in shaping the national cultural identity and creative and civic society growth as well as pursue the culture to be a cornerstone of the lifestyle and its values.

Lithuanian Artists' Association hold a position by defending its members rights and aims that artists' work must be remunerated just like any other. Lithuanian Artists' Association invites to ensure progress on this matter. The first step is only pilot but only by taking bold experiments we can reach good results. There are many more unfavorable conditions for artists but the solution of the remuneration for the exhibitions matter would revitalize the art market and give artists hope.

For a period of the year of 2018-2019 Lithuanian Artists' Association has been granted 9000 euro by Council of Culture for the project called “Applied Research for the Remuneration for the Exhibitions to the Visual Art Creators – Environment Analysis”.

*Lithuanian Artists' Association*