

Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) - Germany

The Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) unites Germany's three most important supraprovincial 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 current chairpersons are Annette Hollywood (speaker of the board), Prof. Ulrike Rosenbach and Werner Schaub. The IGBK and its projects are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the Kulturstiftung der Länder.

Main activities in 2017 and 2018

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 (821 cards were issued in 2017, valid for 2 years).

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

Since 2013, the information portal www.touring-artists.info, a joint project of IGBK and the German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), provides artists for both the performing and the visual arts comprehensive information on visas and residence, transport and customs, taxes, social and other insurances, and copyright related to cross-border mobility. Furthermore, artists and cultural professionals can make use of the [touring artists helpdesk service](#) for individual consultations on international projects and working stays abroad.

The website and service is available in English and in German and is addressed to artists living in Germany and working abroad for a limited time, as well as to foreign artists who come to work in Germany temporarily.

Since Summer 2018 the service also provides information in Turkish specifically for artists and cultural workers from Turkey who are temporarily or longer termly working in Germany.

From September 2018 on the touring artists helpdesk service also welcomes artists and culture professionals who were forced to leave their home countries and are now residing in Germany. Individual consultations on international projects as well as on questions on how to achieve a future career in Germany are offered. Culture professionals can also obtain information on the Berlin job market in particular. Moreover, the helpdesk service addresses cultural institutions in Berlin that are collaborating with arriving artists.

touring artists is a joint project of IGBK and the [International Theatre Institute \(ITI\) Germany](#). The touring artists helpdesk is a cooperation of IGBK and ITI together with [SMartDe - Netzwerk für](#)

[Kreative e.V.](#). The project is supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

The enhanced service for artists and culture professionals from countries affected by crisis is part of the project 'International Artists Info Berlin' – a cooperation of ITI Germany and IGBK with SMartDe – Netzwerk für Kreative e.V. and Universität der Künste Berlin – Berlin Career College, supported by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe Berlin, programme 'Weltoffenes Berlin'.

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

Symposium “Fragile Affinities - (Re)strengthening international artistic collaboration”

23 and 24 November 2017 in cooperation with Akademie der Künste, Berlin, on the occasion of IGBK's 60th anniversary.

Against the background of authoritarian and nationalist movements in many European countries, transnational cohesion and open, democratic societies are getting under increasing pressure. In many countries, artists are increasingly restricted in their freedom or excluded from exchange. The acceptance of the European unification process is fading. With more than 100 international participants and speakers, amongst others from Poland, from Hungary, from Turkey and from Great Britain we discussed the ways in which artists preserve and shape necessary spaces for their activity today facing these challenges. View the program and short resumés on the IGBK Website [here](#).

Panel Discussion “Kunstfreiheit vs Machtkritik“

A cooperation event of the IGBK, Deutscher Künstlerbund and Internationales Theaterinstitut (ITI) Deutschland.

On Friday, 1 June 2018, at the project space of Deutscher Künstlerbund Manaf Halbouni (visual artist, Dresden), Dr. Thomas Irmer (journalist and theater scientist, Theater der Zeit), Prof. Ulrike Rosenbach (visual artist, IGBK, GEDOK) and Prof. Dr. Gabriele Werner (Weißensee Kunsthochschule Berlin) took on the current debate on artistic freedom in potential areas of conflict with for instance 'MeToo', racism and right-wing populism. Already early into the evening, the audience participated to the discussion in a very active and fruitful way. The event was moderated by Anna Steinkamp (project manager and curator for cultural cooperation). Read annette hollywood's (visual artist and spokeswoman for the board of IGBK) introduction to the evening [here](#) (PDF, in German) and a short resumé of the discussion on the IGBK Website [here](#).

“Freepost” – an online debate about Arts and Politics

A cooperation of IGBK with the Goethe-Institut on goethe.de

Starting October 2018, in a new issue of "Freepost", the digital discourse format at goethe.de, in cooperation with IGBK, artists discuss online how contemporary art positions itself politically, how artists collaborate internationally, and how they can reach directly to the European audience. In two online debates spanning several weeks, three discussion partners exchange ideas on the current social and political role of artists in Europe at goethe.de/freepost. The current debate is between belit sag, Joseph Young and Via Lewandowsky. Political scientist Geraldine de Bastion moderates the talks.

Follow the debate and comment on it at www.goethe.de/freepost, on the Goethe-Institut's [Facebook-Page](#) and under the hashtag #freepost on Twitter.

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.

In 2018, IGBK organized the General Assembly of IAA Europe in Brussels as well as, in cooperation with IAA Europe, VG Bild-Kunst and European Visual Artists, the symposium “Exhibition Remuneration Right in Europe 2018”

“Exhibition Remuneration Right in Europe 2018”

Symposium 22 November 2018 in Brussels

Organized by Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK), the [IAA Europe](#), the German collecting society [VG Bild-Kunst](#), and the association [European Visual Artists \(EVA\)](#). Under the patronage of Sabine Verheyen, MEP, Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education. Further partners are [Culture Action Europe](#) and the [Initiative Ausstellungsvergütung](#).

The issue of exhibition remuneration has been an important topic for artists' associations throughout Europe for years. At the symposium an exchange shall take place on national and regional remuneration models that have already been successfully put into practice. In addition, current guidelines and campaigns will be presented. It is also an important goal to make policy and administration aware of the subject of exhibition remuneration at EU level and to draw attention to the 'equity gap' that exists in the visual arts.

IGBK has also produced a handout with texts on Exhibition Remuneration in Europe and beyond, such as Canada, Australia and the USA; which will be published together with the symposium documentation. View the program on the IGBK Website [here](#).

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).

Culture Action Europe German Hub

With a view to the elections to the European Parliament in 2019 and to the German EU Council Presidency in 2020, Culture Action Europe's (CAE) members residing in Germany have met in November 2018 in Berlin. The [European Secretariat of German Culture NGOs \(EUSEC\)](#) has been inviting to this get-together, and IGBK and ITI Germany have been working together in EUSEC for many years.

Together with the Swiss colleagues of Visarte, ITI and IGBK are currently developing the planning for the CAE Annual Conference 2019 in the border region of Konstanz / Kreuzlingen between Germany and Switzerland.

Contact:

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