

Report from the residency

Date: May 13 – May 23 2023

Venue: Meetfactory in Prague, REZI.DANCE in Komařice, Sladovna in Písek, GAMPA in Pardubice, and Bohemia Farmstudio in Vysoká

Project: Managers' residency of Surnadal Billag and Kristiansand Kunsthall

Participants: Jon Arne Mogstad, Cecilie Nissen

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESIDENCY

The purpose of the residency was to establish a network among art institutions located outside major cities, with a focus on art leaders from Surnadal Billag and Kristiansand Kunsthall. The main objective was to exchange experiences, explore common challenges, and foster collaboration between Norwegian and Czech art institutions.

CONTENT AND PROGRESS OF THE RESIDENCY

Over a period of 10 days, Jon Arne Mogstad and Cecilie Nissen visited several art institutions in the Czech Republic. Our visits included Meetfactory in Prague, REZI.DANCE in Komařice, Sladovna in Písek, GAMPA in Pardubice, and Bohemia Farmstudio in Vysoká. We gained a deeper understanding of the operations and challenges of each institution. The program encompassed meetings for idea exchange and also participation in cultural events.

THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS AND OUTCOMES OF THE RESIDENCY

The residency proved to be highly rewarding in multiple ways. We identified numerous parallels between the operation of art institutions in Norway and the Czech Republic, particularly regarding challenges related to funding and operational resources. Engaging with host institutions provided us insights into various approaches and solutions they have implemented. This offered us fresh perspectives and inspiration to bring back to our respective institutions.

We also discovered a sense of community and camaraderie with our Czech colleagues, who share our passion for art and culture. The conversations and shared experiences bolstered our desire to continue collaboration across borders. While we acknowledged challenges and complications related to funding and running institutions, these were balanced by the positive energy and invaluable knowledge gained.

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FUTURE VISION

Based on our residency experience, we intend to implement several of the ideas generated during our stay. Our vision is to establish a network of art institutions from both Norway and the Czech Republic, where we can share resources, knowledge, and best practices to strengthen our collective artistic endeavors. We will also explore opportunities for collaborative projects and exchanges between our institutions.

We are also considering seeking funding from both Norwegian and Czech sources to realize some of the innovative concepts generated during the residency. We are committed to continuing to build bridges between our two countries and creating a sustainable platform for collaboration.

CONCLUSION

Our residency in the Czech Republic has been a remarkable and enriching experience. We have gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by art institutions in both Norway and the Czech Republic. The residency has not only strengthened our professional networks but also inspired us to explore new avenues for collaboration and artistic development.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to Tereza Lacmanová for orchestrating an outstanding program and to the hosts at Meetfactory, REZI.DANCE, Sladovna, GAMPA, and Bohemia Farmstudio for their warm welcome and generous sharing of insights. We look forward to implementing what we have learned and aspire for this to lead to long-term collaboration that enriches both Norwegian and Czech art institutions.

19. 8. 2023

Jon Arne Mogstad

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