

Finland - a response to Artist Exhibition Payment Rights

Kuvasto (the copyright organisation that represents visual artists) agrees on and collects copyright based fees on behalf of the artists it represents. The copyright based fee is due when the artist owns his/her work (fee is not collected for heirs/ successors of deceased artists). The remuneration is based on an agreement between the artist & the organisation holding the right to collect copyright-based fees. For other remunerations there are negotiations, discussions, or informal agreements to settle a fee between the organisation and the artist. Of these informal negotiations there are no statistics available.

Public display grants are given by the state for artists who display a lot of artworks, to compensate the fees that are usually very small. The artist normally receives travel cost and lodging fees, or installation costs, covered by the organisation - this is negotiable. If the artwork has been commissioned by the organisation, the budget usually entitles the artist to a special fee. Artists can receive remunerations only from publicly displayed artworks, not from private galleries. Apart from a few exceptions, in Finland the artists normally also pay rent for organising an exhibition in a gallery.

During 2014, artists' exhibition payment rights and consideration of the Swedish MU Agreement have been widely discussed topics in Finland.

In the spring, Arts Promotion Center Finland organised, in co-operation with the Artist Association of Finland (AAF), a seminar related to visual art. In this seminar chairman Johan Wingestad from KIF/Sweden gave a comprehensive lecture on the Swedish MU agreement. In connection to the seminar AAF organised a press conference that resulted in extensive coverage on the subject both in printed media and television.

In June 2014 representatives of AAF visited the Ministry of Education and Culture. In this meeting with the representatives of the Ministry the structure of the Swedish MU Agreement was discussed, among other topics. Consecutive to the meeting, AAF applied for a grant from the Ministry in order to further explore the MU agreement and to find out how it could best be applied in Finland. At the end of the year AAF received a grant for this work - the pilot project will be carried out in 2015.

An informal working group with representatives from the Arts Promotion Center, Finnish Museums Association, Kuvasto, Finnish Association of Designers and Artists Association of Finland, has had some preliminary conversations about the adoption of MU agreement in Finland.

Further discussions on the subject have been conducted in annual meetings of the AAF and other organisations related to visual arts, organisations from the museum sector and artists from membership groups.

The Artists Association of Finland has found this Nordic co-operation on exhibition payment rights and MU agreement most useful and look forward to continue this kind of co-operation in the future.

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