

Iceland - a response to Artist Exhibition Payment Rights

There are no formal national agreements for artist exhibition payments in Iceland - SÍM (Association for Icelandic Visual Artists) posted a guide list a number of years ago which is rarely used. There is a growing undercurrent of artists that feel they should get paid - but no public discussions. In the past it was just considered normal that not only did artists not get paid for exhibiting, but they also paid a fee to exhibit, usually somewhere between 300-500€. The only noted institution that pays artist fees is The Reykjavik Municipal Art Museum.

After the first Exhibition Payment Rights meeting in Stockholm, SÍM discussed the issues and wished to develop a type of MU tariff/rate - the Swedish MU text was translated for future open discussion.

A part of the process was to meet with The Icelandic National Gallery (LÍ), the nations main gallery. - Unfortunately the Ministry was unable to attend. At this time SÍM and LÍ were in broad agreement that they should change this tradition that has formed, where the artist carries all the costs of production and installation of an exhibition. In order to change this and pay artists for their work, extra funding from the Ministry was needed. In turn SÍM has also met with the Reykjavík Art Gallery (this organisation already has a policy to pay artists for exhibiting and their tariff is not so far from that of the Swedish MU agreement). This was also a positive meeting. However, currently the Ministry has not expressed an interest in implementing an agreement.

Since then, the members of the organisations have elected a new board and Exhibition Payment Rights is still on the agenda, using the Swedish MU as an initial focus and a working group has been established.

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