

## Lithuania - a response to Artist Exhibition Payment Rights

There are no agreements regarding artists' exhibition payments. In Lithuania, the concept of an artist getting paid for exhibiting his/her works is quite new and unusual.

There have been no public discussions on this subject. Some artists, who have been working abroad (Sweden, Norway and so on) talk about the situation, but generally artists tend not to discuss the issue openly. The Lithuanian Artists' Association (LDS) is aware more and more artists feel that this issue is important and needs to be solved.

The Stockholm seminars were very important for the Lithuanian Artists' Association, as a lot of hard questions regarding visual artists' remuneration were discussed for the first time. The most important thing was to understand the broader structure of how to initiate a strategy - it will be a long way to the examples we have in Sweden or Norway.

Lithuania seeks the same goal as other countries - to get fair pay for artists. We look up to the other seminar participants and their experience on the matter. We strongly believe in progress regarding this question.

The good thing in Lithuania is that artists are no longer afraid to demand what is rightfully theirs. They not only talk about it in small groups, but now the information learnt from the seminar meetings is constantly talked about in the conferences, exhibition venues, museums and by gallery employees, at meetings with government officials and in the media.

The first step will be to gather information about the visual arts industry and the income they generate, using the survey model examples of Sweden and Scotland. This will then enable artist groups to explain the situation in a more cohesive way to government officials and funding departments. This work will begin in 2015, with the continuing assistance of the project group.

Edita Utarienė (LDS) believes that the cooperation between the artists will not stop – together we can achieve great things for the artists! Working together, teaching each other, helping to manage and overcome the issues, which are surprisingly similar. This is the key to better social and financial grounds for artists.

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