

## **Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) - Germany**

*The Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) unites Germany's three most important supra-regional 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 IGBK and its projects are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the Kulturstiftung der Länder.*

*The current chairpersons are Andrea Knobloch, Ulrike Rosenbach and Werner Schaub (Board Spokesman).*

## **Main activities in 2014 and 2015**

### **Information and service**

IGBK councils 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](http://www.igbk.de)).

Also the IGBK office helps with formalities with respect to projects abroad and provides advice regarding administrative issues. It issues the 'Certificate for the Customs Authorities for the free flow of works by living artists' for artists based in Germany as well as the 'International Identity Card' of the IAA (636 cards were issued in 2013, 720 cards in 2014, valid for 2 years).

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

Since April 2013 [www.touring-artists.info](http://www.touring-artists.info), a joint project of IGBK and the German Center of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has been online. The website offers artists information on the topics visa/residence, transport/customs, taxes, social insurance, other insurances, and copyright related to cross-border mobility. A database of German support schemes for international projects as well as checklists and sample documents etc complement the information. The topics have been examined for both, the visual and the performing arts.

Information is available in English and German language and is addressed to artists based in Germany and working abroad for a limited time as well as to foreign artists who come to work in Germany temporarily. The project is supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

Since the launch, IGBK, together with cooperation partners and experts, has been organizing diverse workshops and presentations throughout Germany in order to make touring artists known to the artist's scene (7 presentations/workshops in 2014, 7 presentations/workshops in 2015). The activity is ongoing.

In 2014 the touring artists helpdesk service was set up, together with SmartDe. Here artists might profit from individual advice regarding their international projects and working stays abroad. The service is free of charge.

In 2015 also a forum was launched where artists and cultural professionals can share experiences directly (<http://forum.touring-artists.info>).

## **Representing artists' interests: workshops, symposia and membership**

IGBK represents the interests of visual artists at international and European level, seeking to improve their legal and social status. With its engagement with several organisations and networks, IGBK attempts to insure that the interests of artists are taken into consideration at relevant political and administrative decision-making levels.

Together with partner organisations IGBK organises symposia and workshops on topics of relevance to artists. Art education, communication, self-image, conditions and perspectives of artistic practice are topics of discussions in order to propose possible solutions and to increase awareness for future-oriented concepts.

### **Symposium "The State of Fine Art – New Perspectives on Artistic Copyright"**

The symposium took place in November 2014 in Brussels under the patronage of Helga Trüpel (MEP). The event saw European collecting societies and artists' organizations in the field of the visual arts take joint action at the European level. The aim was to draw attention to current copyright issues and to present the positions of the visual arts sector in Europe to the members of the European Parliament and to the European Commission.

The symposium was organised by the VG Bildkunst (Collecting Society for the Visual Arts (Germany)), IGBK, European Visual Artists (EVA), in cooperation with EuroMEI and the IAA Europe.

Topics discussed were:

- Resale right: implementation of the resale right and the European Resale Right Directive,
- Copyright contracts: What form would a fair European contract law take with regard to creators?
- Private copy remuneration: Importance of fair private copy remuneration,
- User generated content and ISP responsibility.

Czech MEP Pavel Svoboda, chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs, took part and underlined the importance of the EU's 2001 Resale Right Directive aimed at ensuring artists receive royalties on their works when these are resold.

A report and audio data of the panels are available from the IGBK webpage ([www.igbk.de](http://www.igbk.de)).

### **"Workshop on green issues for the sustainable support of cultural mobility"**

The workshop took place within the scope of the EU funded project GALA (Green Art Lab Alliance) in March 2014 in Berlin. It provided an overview of approaches taken to embed environmental criteria into cultural funding. Tools and resources were shared and methodology used by some funding bodies, such as the Arts Council England, which has embedded criteria around environmental reporting into funding agreements since 2012, were presented.

The workshop also covered case studies of how cultural organisations are interpreting environmental sustainability and the potential impact of policy in aiding and supporting this work, with a focus on touring, residencies and other mobility related work.

The GALA project received the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union and was coordinated by Julie's Bicycle and DutchCulture | TransArtists. Coordinator of the workshop was On the Move (OTM); co-organisers were the German Center of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and IGBK.

A report is available from the IGBK webpage ([www.igbk.de](http://www.igbk.de)).

### **Reader "Dreams of Art Spaces Collected"**

In 2014 IGBK published the book "Dreams of Art Spaces Collected". The reader combines eleven contributions on contemporary art spaces, project spaces, artists' initiatives, and networks around the world by authors from Africa, the Middle East, India, China, Eastern Europe, and Germany.

It can be purchased from the IGBK office.

## **Roundtable on the EU programme CREATIVE EUROPE**

In order to prepare the mid-term evaluation of the EU programme CREATIVE EUROPE, which will be presented by the European Commission in 2017, a first exchange between cultural professionals (e.g. experienced applicants) and representatives of administrative and political bodies in charge of European cultural support will take place at national level already now. IGBK and the German Center of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) together with the Creative Europe Desk (Germany) will therefore organise a roundtable in November 2015 in Berlin. The exchange is initiated by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

## **Symposium "inEXCHANGE"**

The symposium "inEXCHANGE" is a joined project of IGBK and the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa). It will be organized in December 2015 in Berlin.

In the context of the agendas on Foreign Cultural Policy of the German Federal Government (the Commissioner for Culture and the Media as well as the Foreign Ministry) and taking into account positions of artists involved in exchange programmes, the following questions will be discussed: What is meant by 'intercultural exchange' and which expectations are associated with it - from a European and international perspective? How is the political aim to support 'intercultural exchange' concretely organized? Which political expectations towards artists are expressed through funding guidelines and selection criteria? What understanding of art and artists becomes visible? What are artists' expectations as regards the agendas and programmes that arise from them? How do artists translate the wish for 'intercultural exchange' into self-initiated projects and cooperation? The event will focus on the Villa Romana, on bangaloREsidency as well as on independent artists' organisations. More information is available from the IGBK webpage ([www.igbk.de](http://www.igbk.de)).

## **Paying artists**

Basically through its member organizations, IGBK attends to the topic exhibition payment rights. In 2015 it is involved with the European initiative European Artists' Rights to continue and strengthen the discussion within Europe.

## **Membership at European and international level**

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 IGBK hold the presidency of the IAA Europe (president was Werner Schaub) and was in charge of the office.

IGBK is also involved with Culture Action Europe (CAE) ([www.cultureactioneurope.org](http://www.cultureactioneurope.org)), with the cultural mobility information network On the Move (OTM) ([www.on-the-move.org](http://www.on-the-move.org)) and with the European Council of Artists (ECA) ([www.eca.dk](http://www.eca.dk)).

## **Contact**

### **Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK)**

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