



Illustration: Fadi Abou Hassan.

SAFE HAVENS FOR ARTISTS
AT RISK – A NORDIC PERSPECTIVE
Moriska Paviljongen, Malmö, November 11–12

SAFE HAVENS FOR ARTISTS AT RISK

For several years the Swedish Arts Council has been supporting the ICORN residency programme for persecuted writers. In the Nordic countries there is now a strong movement towards initiating shelter cities not only for writers at risk, but for human rights defenders in all artistic disciplines. The Swedish Arts Council has been given the honour by the other Nordic countries of leading the Nordic promotion of free speech within the region and has raised the issue in various ways.

This year when Sweden holds the presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, we have invited a number of experts and guests to discuss freedom of speech, artistic freedom and safe havens during a two-day expert meeting at Moriska Paviljongen in the city of Malmö on 11–12 November.

It was in the early 1990s that the International Parliament of Writers, with Salman Rushdie as chairman, started the movement of shelter cities for writers as a reaction to the increase in assassinations of writers in Algeria. The shelter cities later formed their own organisation called the International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN) which has grown to include over 40 shelter cities, predominantly in Europe. In fact, French philosopher Jacques Derrida wrote an essay called *On Cosmopolitanism* on the IPW and shelter cities at the time:

“For let us not hesitate to declare our ultimate ambition, what gives meaning to our project: our plea is for what we have decided to call the ‘city of refuge’.

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I am aware that this might appear utopian for a thousand reasons, but at the same time, as modest as it is, what we have already begun to do proves that something of this sort can, from now on, function – and this disjointed process cannot be dissociated from the turbulence which affects, over the lengthy duration of a process, the axioms of international law.”

(Jacques Derrida, On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness, 1997)

So, there is on one hand the city of refuge, which can show hospitality by summoning the local artists and culture producers, and thus through local politics harbour a persecuted intellectual. At the other end of the spectrum, there are the authoritarian societies which put at risk artists who defend human rights. In many societies artists are censored, persecuted, imprisoned and even killed for publishing their texts or otherwise performing their art. And maybe this can be seen as a manifestation of how powerful art can be – why else would such efforts be made to prevent freedom of expression?

The artists defending human rights and representing the free word may be forced to live in exile in any of the shelter cities; the cities of refuge, where they are invited to work and to exercise their fundamental right to freedom of expression. As the writer or artist invited to take part in this benevolent act of hospitality – how can I make sure that I am not compromising my integrity for the sake of gratitude towards the city and its helpful citizens? Or might the guest in fact sometimes find her/himself in the role of the marginalised immigrant without full access to the new language or any solid networks in the country of exile? How can it all be prepared by the city of refuge for sufficient networks to be awaiting the guest? Who must provide safe passage out of the shelter programme? What in all this is the responsibility of the guest? And finally, what support can there be from the nation state and from cross-border alliances, without anyone stepping improperly into the politics of the city? One thing is certain: they will help to enrich local and national cultural life, wherever they end up.

There are a number of organisations promoting free speech and artistic freedom within all artistic disciplines, such as Freemuse, Reporters Without Borders, Scholars at Risk, Safemuse, freeDimensional and, as mentioned before, ICORN and PEN International. Some of these organisations have been operating for a long time and they are highly experienced in their fields.

We are gathering for the seminar Safe Havens for Artists at Risk – a Nordic Perspective, to reflect together on these issues. The experts we have invited are artists, representatives of arts organisations from the Nordic countries and beyond, as well as scholars and city culture administrators. We are hoping to be able to map out the landscape of initiatives, for each of the participants to find the best ways to collaborate and to search for sustainable solutions in the promotion of free speech and artistic freedom.

Kennet Johansson
General Director, Swedish Arts Council

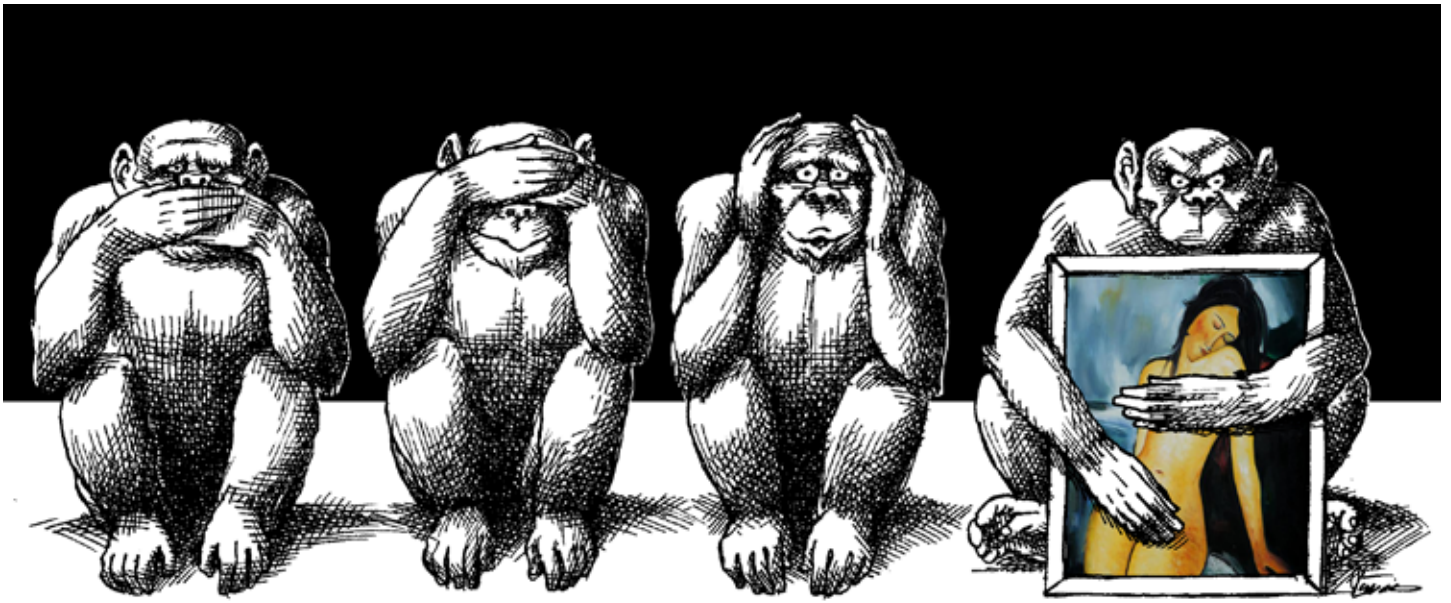


Illustration: Mana Neyestani.

AGENDA FOR THE EXPERT MEETING SAFE HAVENS FOR ARTISTS AT RISK – A NORDIC PERSPECTIVE

Monday November 11

- 11.00 Registration and lunch at Moriska Paviljongen, main entrance.
Sign up for the afternoon workshops. Lunch buffet is served between 11.00 and 11.50.
- 12.00 Main hall.
Writer and performance poet *Easterine Kire* will be our host through the two days.
Here she gives an introduction to the meeting and a few words on the practical details.
- 12.10 Director of the Swedish Arts Council, *Kennet Johansson* welcomes the delegates.
- 12.20 Skype conversation with *Pyotr Verzilov*, Russia, moderated by art curators *Ivor Stodolsky* and *Marita Muukkonen*.
- 12.50 Chairman of the board of the Swedish Arts Council, *Kerstin Brunnberg* in conversation with representatives of ICORN, PEN, Freedimensional, Freemuse, Safemuse, Reporters without Borders and Scholars at Risk. On modes of operation and why we have gathered for this meeting.
- 13.30. *Monirah Hashemi*, Afghan filmmaker and theater director, currently the guest of Karlstad and Riksteatern.
- 14.00 *Khaled Harara*, guest writer/rapper in Gothenburg in conversation with *Lotta Schüllerqvist* from Reporters Without Borders.
- 14.30 Academic panel discussion with *Fataneh Farahani*, PhD Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies, Stockholm University and *Mustafa Dikec*, Professor at the Institut Français d'Urbanisme (IFU) in Paris. Moderated by *Ingrid Elam*, dean of the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts at the University of Gothenburg, On the background of sheltering dissident artists in cities of refuge and a discussion on the power relations at work between the different stakeholders in acts of hospitality.
- 15.20 Coffee break.
- 15.50 Presentation of the first workshop session – *Easterine Kire* and the workshop leaders.

16.00–17.30 Workshops.

There will be a choice of three different workshops discussing threats against artistic freedom and the situation for artists of different disciplines, defending human rights. The workshops will be hosted by representatives of some of the most experienced international artist organisations for free speech, dissident artists as well as other professionals and experts (please see following pages).

17.30 Gathering after the workshops. The workshop leaders will summarize the results of the workshops. A short presentation of the evening event: Impossible Music Sessions.

17.50 Poetic intervention by *Easterine Kire* and summing up the first day of the meeting.

18.10–19.30 Dinner buffet in the main venue. Welcome to Malmö – speech by a representative from the City of Malmö.

20.00–22.00 Evening event, Moriska Paviljongen: The Impossible Music Sessions. This session is open also to the public.

The Impossible Music Sessions STHLM is a series of concerts and talks on the theme of freedom of musical expression. Around the world, musicians are silenced, censored and prevented from creating and performing their music, because it displeases the people in power. Through The Impossible Music Sessions the silenced musicians take their voices back. Local artists perform the silenced music live. Cross-border collaborations between musicians are created and the banned music sees new life.

Tuesday November 12

08.30 Coffee.

09.00 *Easterine Kire*, introduction to the second day of sessions.

09.10 *Alfons Karabuda*, President of SKAP – Swedish Society of Popular Music Composers and ECSA – European Composer & Songwriter Alliance, presents the recent UN-report on Artistic rights.

09.45 Conversation with the two cartoonists *Mana Neyestani* and *Fadi Abou Hassan*, moderated by culture producer *Manal Masri*.

10.20 *Easterine Kire* introduces the first workshop sessions together with the workshop leaders.

10.30 Workshops. A new choice of three different workshops discussing threats against artistic freedom and the situation for artists of different disciplines, defending human rights. The workshops will be hosted by representatives of some of the most experienced international artist organisations for free speech, dissident artists as well as other professionals and experts (please see following pages).

12.00 Gathering in the main venue after the workshops. The workshop leaders will summarize the results of the workshops.

12.30 Lunch.

13.20 *Kerstin Brunnberg*, discussion with some of the delegates. What is the result of these two days of networking and workshops? Next step – how do we move forward in the Nordic networks for free speech, shelter cities and artistic freedom?

13.50 Final words by *Easterine Kire*.

15.00 *Open seminar in Swedish on how digital media and art be used to strengthen freedom of speech. Hosted by Kulturkontakt Nord. This afternoon seminar is not part of the official programme, but all delegates are welcome. Read more in Swedish: www.kulturkontakt-nord.org/lang-sv/om-kulturkontakt-nord/aktuellt/19-nyheter-om-kkn/1737-inspirationstraeff-nordiska-kulturstoed-och-digital-yttrandefrihet*



Moriska Paviljongen Malmö Folkets Park.

INVITED ORGANISATIONS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING FREE SPEECH AND SHELTERING ARTISTS AT RISK

freeDimensional – fD supports culture in the service of free expression, justice and equality, based on the belief that creative expression fuels social justice movements. fD works with the global arts community to identify and redistribute resources and support meaningful relationships between art spaces and activists. Since 2006, fD has supported over 150 artists from 35 countries facing threats, censorship, violent assault or imprisonment for voicing the concerns of their communities. fD values artists as communicators and vanguards on a range of critical issues and recognizes community art spaces as sites of innovation that can generate a range of solutions. fD protects artists at risk by securing placements for them in underutilized artist residency facilities via our Creative Safe Haven program, identifying a network of personal and professional support services through our Resource Mapping program, and providing rapid response and emergency funding through the Creative Resistance Fund.

Freemuse – the World Forum on Music & Censorship is an independent international organisation advocating and defending freedom of expression for musicians and composers worldwide. Freemuse has Special Consultative Status with the United Nation's Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC. Since 2011 Freemuse has broadened its scope to include projects advocating freedom of all artistic expressions and initiated the global network artsfex for the protection of artistic freedom.

HIAP - Helsinki International Artist Programme is one of the largest international residency centers in Finland. HIAP focuses primarily on the Visual Arts and is open to artists and curators from various disciplines. In collaboration with local and international partner organizations, HIAP residencies are also offered for professionals in other creative fields, such as dance, theatre, literature and music. The activities at HIAP are organized almost exclusively through thematic projects and programmes, which highlight a certain geographical area or concentrate on a specific contemporary topic or an aspect of artistic practice. Projects and programmes can run from a few months to several years.

ICORN – The International Cities of Refuge Network is an association of cities around the world dedicated to the value of Freedom of Expression. Writers have consistently been targets of politically motivated threats and persecution, and the network believes it is necessary for the international community to formulate and implement an appropriate response.

Each ICORN city focuses on one writer at a time, each writer representing the countless others in hiding, in prison or silenced forever. By providing a Guest Writer with a safe place to stay and economic security for a standard term of two years, ICORN cities make an important, practical contribution to the promotion of Freedom of Expression.

PEN International celebrates literature and promotes freedom of expression. Founded in 1921, the global community of writers now numbers more than 20,000 and spans more than 100 countries. The programmes, campaigns, events and publications aim to connect writers and readers wherever they are in the world. Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN is staffed by a small team of professionals who monitor around 1,000 attacks on writers, journalists, editors, poets, publishers and others every year. Swedish PEN was founded in 1922 and is thus one of the oldest centres in the organization.

Swedish PEN's The Dissident Blog presents the forbidden texts – the ones that can neither be written nor published in the writers' own countries. The blog serves to give these texts both a Swedish and an international audience.

Reporters Without Borders is an international organisation for press freedom and freedom of speech. It was started in France in 1985 and the Swedish branch opened in 1994. Today we have offices in ten countries around the world, and we also have a network of correspondents in 150 countries, reporting about all kinds of threats and atrocities against news providers, both journalists and social media activists.

One of our most important tools is the yearly Press Freedom Index, which is regarded highly reliable and is widely quoted. 2012 was the so far deadliest year for news providers – 88 journalists and 47 citizen journalists were killed. 879 journalists and 144 citizen journalists were put in prison, and at least 73 journalists were forced into exile. On the local level we work with many different activities, like support for journalists seeking refuge and security training for freelancers. We also support journalists in exile and give a yearly Press Freedom Award.

SafeMUSE – Safe Music Havens Initiative – The aim of SafeMUSE is to establish a safe city/haven system for persecuted artists in the field of music. In addition the project has started developing a safe music residence scheme. The project is in its initial phase run by the Norwegian Musicians' Union, and is planning to establish as a stand-alone operation this autumn. The project idea is inspired by ICORN's Cities of Refuge scheme for writers, but adapted to the field of music. SafeMUSE bases its motivation on the monitoring and documentation of violations of freedom of musical expression done by Freemuse for years, and has also an agreement with Freemuse for the clearing of musical artists, composers and tradition bearers for the program. To make the safe haven period as fruitful as possible for both the candidates and the local environments, SafeMUSE emphasizes the need for anchoring the project with relevant local, regional and national music communities.

Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 330 higher education institutions in 35 countries, dedicated to protecting scholars, preventing attacks on higher education and promoting academic freedom. Scholars at Risk network members protect scholars primarily by arranging positions of sanctuary for those forced to flee. Since the network's launch in 2000, more than 400 scholars have found sanctuary and hundreds more have benefitted from other services. In return, scholars contribute to their host campuses through teaching, research, lectures and other activities. Scholars at Risk also works to prevent attacks on higher education communities and to promote academic freedom through monitoring and advocacy, workshops, trainings, and a speaker series. These activities aim to target the root causes of intellectual repression and to promote systemic change.



PRESENTATION OF SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS

Read more about the represented organizations in previous pages.

Sophie Allgård Representing AICA Sweden.

Elnaz Baghlanian Representing Swedish PEN.

Noufel Bouzeboudja is a writer and journalist from Algeria (Amazigh, Kabylia). Before leaving his country in 2009, he taught English and drama-techniques at the University. Censored and threatened, he fled to Spain where he taught French and Arabic. He now lives in Denmark within the ICORN program. Noufel takes part in literary festivals and public readings and collaborates with a lot of European universities and institutions giving lectures and participating in seminars and debates about various issues including: human rights, literature and creative writing. Polyglot, he writes and performs in many languages including Kabyle, Arabic (Both classical and popular), French and English.

Kerstin Brunberg Chairman of the Board, the Swedish Arts Council.

Mary Ann DeVlieg Senior Advisor for Strategy and Operational Development at freeDimensional. Secretary General of IETM (international network for contemporary performing arts) from 1994–2013, she is an active force on international and European levels, in cultural policy, contemporary performing arts, cultural networking and defence of artists' human rights. She is a founder of www.on-the-move.org and the Roberto Cimetta Fund for Arts Mobility in the Mediterranean (www.cimettafund.org). She participates in many policy think-tanks, is currently Chair of the EU Working Group 'ARJ' on Arts and Human Rights and on the steering group of Artsfex.org. She has an M.A. in European Cultural Policy from the University of Warwick and was awarded the European Commission's Individual Prize for her life-long work for free mobility of artists.

Mustafa Dikeç is Professor at the Institut Français d'Urbanisme (IFU) in Paris. Before moving to IFU, he was Reader in Human Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. His research is focused around three themes: politics of space, politics of alterity, and politics of time. On the first two, he has published *Badlands of the Republic: Space, Politics and Urban Policy* (2007, Blackwell) and *Extending Hospitality: Giving Space, Taking Time* (co-edited with Nigel Clark and Clive Barnett, 2009, Edinburg University Press). He is finishing a new book entitled *Space, Politics and Aesthetics*, and working on a new project on the politics of time in nineteenth-century Paris.

Elisabeth Dyvik Representing ICORN.

Ingrid Elam attended in 1993 the first Writers parliament in Strasbourg where the idea of safe havens was discussed and spread. As a critic and writer, and as a cultural editor in three Swedish newspapers, she has been promoting freedom of speech and of artistic expression for many years. She is currently dean of the Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts at the University of Gothenburg.

Jan Lothe Eriksen Representing SafeMUSE.

Fataneh Farahani is a researcher and senior lecturer at the Department of Ethnology, Gender Studies and History of Religions at Stockholm University. The topic of Dr. Farahani's research and teaching are primarily on postcolonial theories, transnational feminism and sexuality, diaspora, feminist and queer theory, whiteness studies, Islam and sexuality. Trained in ethnology and gender studies, her doctoral thesis; *Diasporic Narratives of Sexuality: Identity Formation among Iranian- Swedish woman* (2007), is an ethnographical account of sexuality among Iranian women living in Sweden. Dr. Farahani's current research *Cultural and Racial Politics of Representation: A Study of Diasporic Masculinities among Iranian Men* seeks to examine the under-researched area of (re)presentation of masculinity and sexuality of Iranian men in three heterogeneous cities: Stockholm, Sydney and London.

Khaled Harara is a Palestinian rapper who writes his own lyrics. He comes from the Gaza strip and has in his poetry openly criticized the Hamas rule and government. In addition to rap, he carried out rap workshops for students in Gaza, with focus on writing lyrics. These workshops have been stopped by the Hamas. Rap is not approved by Hamas, and regarded as alien, not belonging to the Arabic culture. Khaled has been beaten and arrested several times. He has been denied to give performances with his group Palestinian Unit in Gaza.

Khaled represented Palestine in the International Music festival 2012 in France and participated in different events promoting peace, human rights and childrens rights. When arriving in Denmark as a part of a workshop and concerts for the organisation Rapapolitics, he decided against returning to Gaza. Khaled is now a ICORN guest writer/rap artist in Gothenburg.

Monirah Hashemi was born in 1985 in Iran and came to Afghanistan in 2004 where she settled in Herat. Monirah and her friends established the Simorgh Film Association of Culture and Art in 2005 and they started producing films. In 2010 they established a women short film makers department and 120 young girls came to a four months film making course financed by US Embassy. Now the Simorgh Film Association of Culture and Art has 50 members and 30 of them are young girls.

Monirah has been a playwright, director and in theaters since 2007 and her plays have been performed in Kabul, New Delhi, Mumbai, Berlin, Hamburg, Turkey and Sweden. She has also created theater for social development in Herat, Kabul, Jalalabad and Kandahar, performing theater for isolated areas, especially for women in border areas, women in the prisons, juvenile correction centers, women drug addicted centers, shelters and also for schools and villages. Monirah was invited to Sweden on a residency scholarship through Riksteatern, Karlstad.

Fadi Abou Hassan was born in 1975 and is a widely published Palestinian/Syrian freelance cartoonist. He has a bachelor's degree in law, but started publishing cartoons in 1989. Fadi was living in Syria until the uprising in 2012 when he fled from the country. He is known for his many cartoons which describe the political events in Syria and the Middle East in general. His cartoons focus on the themes of human rights, women's rights, and political violence taking place in the country. He is critical of the political elite in Syria.

Fadi's cartoons have been published in various print and online outlets. Since 2011, he is published in Cartoon movement web site (Amsterdam) and Doha center for free midea (Qatar). He also publishes his cartoons online and has been rewarded several awards for his works. Activist in the defense of the principles of democracy and human rights.

Kennet Johansson Director General, the Swedish Arts Council.

Alfons Karabuda is a composer and chairman of SKAP (Swedish Composers of Popular Music), ECSA (European Composer & Songwriter Alliance), APCOE (The Alliance of Popular Music Composer Organization of Europe) and Vice Chairman of STIM (Swedish International Music Composers Bureau). Through these positions he is actively promoting issues concerning artistic freedom and freedom of speech, both nationally and internationally. Alfons Karabuda was a member of the expert committee of the UN Human Rights Council, which recently presented the first report on artists and human rights.

Easterine Kire is a poet, novelist, and writer of children's books, from Nagaland, India. She also writes short stories and some of her short stories are translated to German. Her first novel, *A Naga Village Remembered* (Ura Academy 2003) was also the first Naga novel in English to be published. She has a Ph.D in English literature from the University of Pune. In 2011 she was awarded the governor's medal for excellence in Naga literature. Her poetry and books have been translated to German, Croatian, Uzbek, Norwegian and Nepali. She is currently based in Northern Norway where she concentrates on her writing and performs jazz poetry with her band, Jazzpoesi.

Karen-Lise Scheie Knudsen Representing University of Agder, Norway.

Binnie Kristal-Andersson, doctor of psychology, is a practicing psychologist and psychotherapist. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, she emigrated to Sweden in 1966, where she performed clinical training and research. After many years of clinical and supervisory work, she realized that there was an acute need for a treatment model that considers the specific psychology of these groups. Formulating a framework (psychological model) and organizing a specialist form of education for various categories of professionals were the principal goals of her twenty-five years of research work and the subsequent doctoral dissertation and book. Kristal-Andersson is the author of a variety of fiction, including dramatic and cinematic, as well as non-fiction works, and is a member of The Swedish Centre of International PEN and Amnesty International.

Helge Lunde Representing ICORN.

Manal Masri is a writer, director, producer and theater manager who has been active in Malmö's cultural life for several years. Her projects often include current and social issues characterized by multilingual themes and international cooperation. She has produced international theater tours in Sweden, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon. Manal has studied in the US, and she received her Masters from Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. Manal Masri also runs her own production company, Manal Masri Productions.

Marita Muukkonen has in recent years worked as Curator of HIAP – The Helsinki International Artists-in-Residence Programme and Curator at FRAME – The Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, where she was also the Editor of FRAMEWORK – The Finnish Art Review. Between 2001–2005 she worked at NIFCA – The Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art, where she was an editor of several publications. Having worked on several Finnish and Nordic Pavilions at the Venice Biennale, in 2010–2012 she co-curated with Power Ekroth the 1st Nordic Pavillion for the Daka'art Biennial in Senegal. Currently she is establishing an "exile" residency programme in Helsinki for visual art practitioners, film directors and intellectuals who have to leave their countries for violations of freedom of expression. She co-founded Perpetuum Mobile with Ivor Stodolsky in 2007.

Mana Neyestani was born in Tehran, Iran in 1973. Mana Neyestani trained as an architect in Tehran University, but began his career in 1990 as a cartoonist and illustrator for many cultural, political, literary and economic magazine. With the rise of Iranian reformist newspapers in 1999, he became an editorial cartoonist. In 2006, he was sent to jail because of a cartoon published in the children section of "Iran-Jome" weekly magazine. Neyestani is now living in Paris, as a political refuge, drawing editorial cartoons for the website such as Iran Wire, Roozonline, and Radiozamaneh also working on graphic novels.

Sinead O' Gorman is European Director at Scholars at Risk. Based in The Hague, Ms. O'Gorman leads SAR's international outreach efforts, including the design and implementation of SAR's strategy for Europe, establishing national and regional SAR sections and increasing global participation in SAR's protection and prevention activities. Ms. O'Gorman has over 12 years' experience in higher education, development cooperation and human rights. Prior to joining SAR, Ms. O'Gorman served as Program Officer-Africa at the Institute of International Education (IIE) and held program and research positions at the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) in London and at the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) in Dublin.

Ole Reitov Representing Freemuse.

Jaakko Rustianus Representing HIAP.

Lotta Schüllerqvist Representing Reporters Without Borders.

Ivor A Stodolsky is a curator, theorist and writer. He organises exhibitions, conferences and events internationally, with recent events in Berlin (4th Roma-Gypsy Pavilion) and Helsinki, Tromsø and Moscow. His curatorial practice is informed by his studies at the intersections of philosophy, cultural history and social theory (see, e.g. *A Multilectic Anatomy of Stiob' and Poshlost'*, *Laboratorium* vol. 3, 2011). Ivor has also been engaged in poetry, film (e.g. International Romani Film Commission), academic scholarship (BA Philosophy and Mathematics, Bristol; MRes London Consortium; PhD Researcher, Aleksanteri Institute, Helsinki University) and was previously Associate Editor of the global op-ed syndication service Project Syndicate. He co-founded Perpetuum Mobile with Marita Muukkonen in 2007.

Pyotr Verzilov is an artist and activist best known today as the husband and close collaborator of Nadezhda "Nadya" Tolokonnikova, who is perhaps the most vocal and visible member of the Russian feminist punk rock collective Pussy Riot. Recently she went on hunger-strike to protest the extreme conditions and illegal forced labour at the IK-41 work-camp, where she is held in the Russian Republic of Mordovia. She is enduring a two-year sentence, handed down almost directly from President Putin, for the "Punk Prayer" the band performed in Russia's central cathedral. Verzilov is in close touch with both Nadya and Maria Alyokhina, visiting them as frequently as possible in their respective internment camps.

Verzilov is well known in his own right as a founding member of the Voina group, which Nadya also was a part of. He was and continues to be closely involved in the actions of Pussy Riot, their legal defence and its media coverage. Verzilov was a member of the Strategy 31 protests and helped organize the Anti-Seliger and Last Autumn opposition forums. Most recently he played a role in the campaign of the anti-Putin candidate in the Moscow mayoral elections. (via Skype from Russia). For a brief video interview, see www.re-aligned.net/petr-verzilov

Ragnhild Øien Guldvog Chair of Scholars at Risk Norway section.

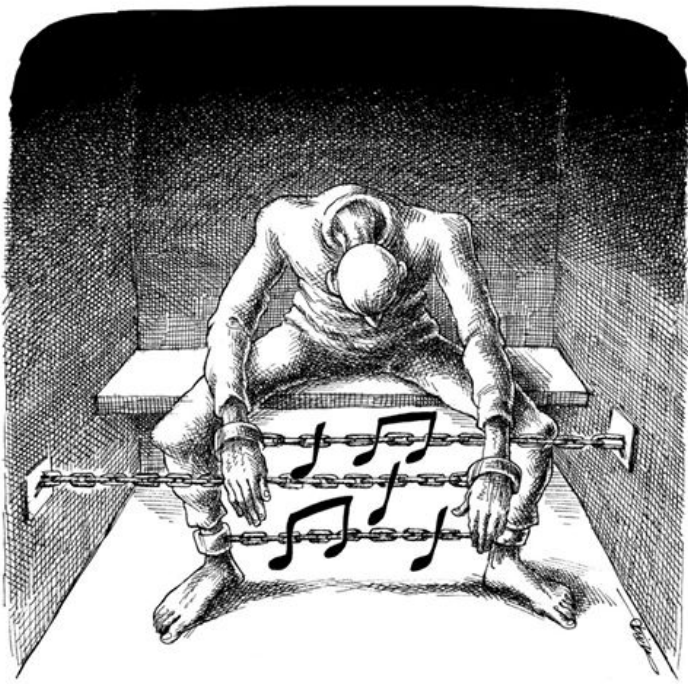


Illustration: Mana Neyestani.

WORKSHOPS

3 workshops each day

Monday, November 11, 16.00–17.30

1. ICORN – Out of the Fire...

Workshop leader: ICORN, Elisabeth Dyvik

Writers and artists are often early targets of threats and persecution. Through their work they give voice to thoughts, ideas, debate and critique, and spread these to a wide audience. Examining and discussing ideas and contemporary topics, asking questions, even revealing dreams in the public sphere is part of all writers' and artists' job.

ICORN has nearly 20 years' experience with helping writers out of danger and into safe cities. In this workshop we will look at how safe cities fit into the larger work going on to help writers, artists and other human rights defenders continue their work for freedom of expression. By examining individual cases we will see what needs to be in place to be able to offer long term residencies.

We will also analyse roles and competencies that different actors in the broader network have, and how we best can engage the resources they represent in order to work better together.

Discussion.

2. How to make the best of a shelter programme, and the life after. The guests' perspective

Workshop leader: Noufel Bouzeboudja – writer and performance artist, currently ICORN guest writer in Fanö, Denmark

Special guest/expert: Binnie Kristal Andersson – psychologist, film director and expert on exile and migration

How can I see myself as a writer or an artist invited to a long term residency programme? What should I consider and what expectations can I have on the city of refuge? As an artist, fighting for the free word and artistic freedom, how can I make sure that I am not compromising my integrity for the sake of gratitude and benevolence when I am the guest of a city?

Are the guest writers “ordinary” refugees in exile? Having (had) an active role in their societies, they find themselves in another country (geographically isolated), suddenly plunged into another culture (individualist vs collectivist culture), they must learn a new language (a hindrance to keep focused on their work).

Integration is a long process even if one has the privilege of having a coordinator and a set of activities. How can the guests integration be done in an efficient way? What kind of help can the shelter city guests be provided with at the very beginning of their stay?

The time after two years – how do we keep in touch with each other and how can the experiences of ex-writers and artists in the shelter programmes be better used in the benefit of the new guests and the new cities entering the programme?

Can a network which also includes human rights defenders within other artistic disciplines than literature, such as music, film, performing arts and visual arts, create a broader view of opportunities and possible artistic collaborations?

Discussion.

3. Scholars at Risk Network supporting artists at risk: How to get involved

Workshop leader: Sinead O’ Gorman, European section of Scholars at Risk

Special guest/expert: Karen-Lise Scheie Knudsen of University of Agder, Norway, Ragnhild Øien Guldvog, Chair of Scholars at Risk Norway section

Three short introductory presentations (seven to ten minutes absolute max each)

1. SAR’s European Director will provide:
 - Brief overview of SAR activities, including on behalf of threatened artists.
 - How SAR’s protective relocation programme works
 - Examples of SAR’s global network protecting at-risk artists
 - Opportunities for involvement of workshop participants
2. Chair of SAR Norway Section will provide:
 - Overview of SAR-Norway activities on behalf of threatened scholars, including artists
 - Importance of prevention/promotion activities
 - SAR-Norway (a national section of SAR) as a model for organizing HEIs in other Nordic countries
3. Representative from University of Agder
 - Discussion of U of Agder’s experience hosting a threatened artist
 - Practical considerations, challenges, lessons learned, benefits to the host institution, follow-up etc.

Group discussion (1h 15mins)

- Opportunity for participant intros and questions
- Discussion of current challenges faced in protecting threatened artists in the Nordic countries
- Discussion on ways to improve coordination of current support networks and potential hosts for artists at risk
- Suggestions for follow-up activities/actions

Tuesday November 12, 10.30–12.00

1. Music and Freedom of Artistic Expression – short and long term safe havens

Workshop leader: Ole Reitov, Freemuse (DK), Jan Lothe Eriksen, SafeMUSE/Norwegian Musicians Union (NO)

Special guest/expert: Khaled Harara – guest in shelter city Gothenburg

“I would like to build my connection with music networks more close and more strong and in a free space, I would like to have opportunity to work on some of my projects in more concentrated time and space without my fears and worries in my life.” (Applicant for the SafeMUSE program.)

Freemuse, the world leading organization advocating freedom of expression for musicians, has documented and monitored violations to the freedom of expression in the music area since 1999. Based on these documented harsh realities for music colleagues around the world, the Norwegian Musicians’ Union has set up SafeMUSE – Safe Music Havens Initiative, with the ambition to establish a scheme of safe music havens/shelter cities in close relation to Freemuse and relevant local music environments, firstly in the Nordic countries. The city of Harstad was the first to report for duty. Freemuse has done the first clearing of artists for the scheme, and the project is waiting for formal approval before welcoming the first guest musician.

At the same time Gothenburg, an ICORN shelter city since 1996, has now accepted their new guest writer – a rap artist. This is done in collaboration with both Freemuse and Reporters without borders.

According to the clearing report Freemuse recently presented to SafeMUSE, many musicians at risk would prefer a short term residency, to be able to get out of their present situation and work without censorship for some time, but then have the possibility to return.

This session will be the presentation of the organisations as well as the Norwegian initiative. It will be followed by a discussion on how to promote the development of safe havens for musicians.

2. Freedom: Country>City>Community – Resettlement and Holistic Integration of Displaced Activists

Workshop leader: Mary Ann DeVlieg – freeDimensional

Special guest/expert: Theatre director Monirah Hashemi

Materials: Intake Form, Tactical Notebook (considerations), Art Space Resource Checklist, Typology of Artist in Distress, Residency Formats, Triage Process Diagram

When artists and culture workers also are activists they often face threats to their person, family and community and are forced to leave their countries of origin. Often these forcibly displaced individuals find themselves in situations where recent trauma and differences in language and culture make it difficult to navigate in their new environment. Without a recognized resource center to meet their needs, most struggle to get acclimatized and are unable to continue their artistic practice.

Seeing the value of a program addressing the needs of displaced artists forced to migrate, fD has developed a set of guidelines, considerations and best practices for tailoring a resettlement plan to accurately/adequately support their wide ranging needs and ensure the continuation of their creative practice. The primary goals of this program are: 1) Provide customized personal and professional support– including “pre-residency” – to integrate artists-in-exile into a range of local arts communities; 2) Engage artists in a comprehensive resource mapping process to facilitate their acclimation and integration into a new country/city/community.

fD has identified that their most critical needs are: support for room & board, psychosocial & mental health to address recent trauma, medical & legal services, short-term employment, ongoing professional development and opportunities for community engagement. Often, hosting spaces are not equipped to deal with all of these wide ranging needs. By systematically accessing a combination of existing resources, fD has developed the template for a ‘triage team’; a matrix of art spaces, cultural and academic institutions, community and social service organizations to co-facilitate holistic integration upon arrival.

This systematic approach to supporting artists-in-exile who make a Nordic city their temporary or permanent home maximizes the benefit of their residency placement, in turn enriching the local arts community and cultural fabric of related diaspora communities. By acting as facilitators of this process, hosting cities can ensure a continued impact for artists and activists while generating awareness of and driving change in their home countries.

3. Fresh AiR

A discussion between art residency programmes and visual arts organisations on finding new ways of promoting free speech and artistic freedom through existing initiatives in the Nordic countries.

Finnish HIAP is setting up collaborations between artists residencies around the Nordic countries. The residencies are experts on how to match artists with a space and a community. Now they wish to move on in a collaborative programme to host artists at risk as well. Swedish KRO/KIF, IAA and the AICA Sweden have taken an interest in the possibilities of initiating safe cities and shelter programmes for artists and have acted in support of artists defending human- and artistic rights.

WiFi: Moriskan2012

#safehavens

