

EU- MAN

"European Union Migrant Artists' Network"

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EU-MAN annual report (2001)

During year 2001, EU-MAN board members worked hard to implement the large-scale exhibition "the Outside of the Inside" which took place in July 2001 in Manege St.Petersburg Art Hall, Russia and in October 2001 in M- Art Gallery in Vienna, Austria.

The project demanded a lot of voluntarily work that missions to both countries have done the transportation. As the communication and the contacts were voluntarily work as well. A catalogue was published for each project. Mr.Sadeq AL-Fraji, a EU-MAN member the designed Vienna catalogue, but the Museum of Manege in ST .Petersburg took the responsibility to design the other catalogue.

A fund was granted for "the Outside of the Inside" project as the following:

- . 25,000 FIM from Svenska Kulturfonden
- . 80,000 FIM from The Finnish Cultural Foundation divided to two parts, as follows:
 - 40,000 FIM for the project and
 - 40,000 FIM for Amir Khatib loaned it to the project.
- . 50,000 FIM Ministry of Education
- . 20,000 FIM Finnish Art Council

Moreover, BEKELE OY the accounting office made a financial report by the end of May 200 1, about the financial situation of the organization. This report was distributed to the officials and to some members who expressed their wish to know the financial situation of EU-MAN.

The board of EU-MAN invited all members and officials form the Ministry of education Mr. Mikko Cortes Telles, Finnish Art Council Mr. Risto Ruohonen, The Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art NIFCA Mrs. Marita Muukonen, the head of the cultural authorities in Helsinki Mr. Yrjo Larmola and the director of CAISA the International Cultural Center in Helsinki Mrs. Tuula Meris-Vouri, for a seminar in June 2001. The seminar discussed many important issues concerning the situation of the migrant art and artists and the Gallery of EU-MAN and the whole work of the organization. The seminar was successful and the people attended it were satisfied with the results of the seminar.

EU-MAN issued four issues of its quarterly magazine "Universal Colours", which has been supported by the Ministry of Education for 10,000 FIM annually, but as this money was of little help and because the printing costs of each issue, which is about 4000 FIM, we could hardly continue sending the magazine to all of our members and the art organization in Finland and Europe as well.

The board of EU-MAN agreed in March 2001 to open a gallery to all members to give them possibility to exhibit their work. We rented a place in Maritullinkatu 15 B 00 170 Helsinki from the 1st of April 2001, but the official opening was delayed because we were busy with the project of "the Outside of the Inside" for almost the whole year. The other reason was the financial difficulties.

Meeting held between EU-MAN and the chairman of the Finnish Art Council, by the end of August, to discuss the financial situation and continuation of the work with the gallery and to send the "outside of the Inside" to Vienna. Mr. Risto Ruohonen the Chairman of the council worked hard towards getting the support for the last of the year. As well Mr. Kari Poutasuo from the Ministry of Education has done. They both were working hard to let the EU-MAN continue its work, and their work resulted to get some 25 000 FIM from the Finnish Art council, and some 35000 FIM from the Ministry of Education.

So we could prepare for the opening of the gallery, after a hard work of the exhibition of Vienna in October 2001, and we made the opening finally on the 1st of December 2001, the opening ceremony was very big and the media wrote about it.

More than 100 people gathered in the relatively small gallery to see the works of two of Russian artists, who live in Finland, Andrei Gennadiev and Mikael Siimes. The Russian Ambassador to Finland attended the ceremony and gave a speech in which he introduced the two artists.

Avtarjeet Dhenjal, EU-MAN member, lives and works in England, suggested a large-scale exhibition for next year. The theme of his idea is (Space In Between).

As his idea is an interesting one, EU-MAN has taken it into consideration and discussions about implementing it are going on. To develop the idea and to make as real as possible, the suggestion

was forwarded to the Helsinki Art Hall and negotiations with the director of HAH Mrs. Maija Tanninen-Mattila took place. Another meeting with the rector of the Fine Arts Academy in Finland Mr. Mika Hannula, to discuss the possibilities of implementing the project was held.

Mr. Hannula was invited him to be a member of the jury who will select the participants to the (Space In Between).

Mrs. Maritta Jaukkuri the chief curator of the Finnish Contemporary Art Museum of KIASMA expressed her interest in the idea as well, and she accepted to be a member of the jury.

EU-MAN started as a non-profit organization on the 10th of January 1997 and before the end of the year 2001, EU-MAN board members were invited to a general meeting to discuss and evaluate its situation, to prepare for the year 2002 general meeting and to choose a new board and plan for the year 2002.

In 2001 EU-MAN got a lot of attention from the media; it was mentioned in Helsinki Sanomat, Hufvustasbladet, MTV3 and many Russian newspapers, television channels and some Austrian media as well.

The Finnish TV of prepares a cultural program about the gallery and the organization of EU-MAN to be broadcasted soon.



Amir Khatib
Chairperson of EU-MAN
Helsinki
20th of February 2002