

Through my position as director of the Frankfurter Kunstverein and co-curator of the successful exhibition project 'Populism', I have recently had the opportunity to work closely together with the Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art in Helsinki (NIFCA). NIFCA has been an essential player in this pan-European project with the contemporary and international outlook and network of the organisation.

Therefore I would like to express my support to the board of NIFCA in their response to the proposals of the Nordic Council of Ministers' Structure Group concerning the structural reform of the Nordic cultural collaboration.

After having read the proposals, I am concerned with the following aspects of the suggested changes:

1. The diversity of the Nordic Cultural Institutes and their collaboration with international partners produces an unique environment of exchange and communication. NIFCA has during the last years been one of the most important players in the international profiling of Nordic contemporary art. The focus on national institutions and organisations that the new structure of funding and project management invites could pose a serious impediment on the continued promotion and networking of Nordic art abroad.
2. It could be problematic that decisions concerning the policies in the new structure will be made by politicians employed on a short term basis and not by artistic experts. For serious, ambitious and critical research into art to be made, long term programming and expert knowledge is essential. That the policies will be revised on a yearly basis and the limitation of the projects to three years could mean that the decisions will be coloured by short term political interests.

Nicolaus Schafhausen  
Director  
Frankfurter Kunstverein

nicolaus schafhausen  
director  
frankfurter kunstverein  
steinernes haus am römerberg  
markt 44  
d- 60311 frankfurt am main  
schafhausen@fkv.de  
[www.fkv.de](http://www.fkv.de)  
t +49-69-219314-0  
f +49-69-21931411