

## Faculty of Art and Design

### MIRIAD

Cecilia Gelin, Director  
NIFCA  
Suomenlina B 28  
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Dear Cecilia,

I am distressed by the news of the threat of closure of NIFCA. The idea that artistic leadership, vision, experience and expertise vested in NIFCA and similar autonomous cultural organisations can be replaced by a centralised bureaucracy is as short sighted as it is arrogant.

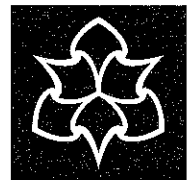
It is obvious to me that the international prominence of artists from the Nordic region over the last decade or so is to a very large extent due to the flexibility of the current organisational structure and the ability of the institutions to actively seek and generate opportunities as well as to respond to them. It has created an aspirational professional climate in which artistic ambition and quality can prosper. It is not just money and other forms of material support that artists need to gain visibility and access to international networks - it is also, and above all, the critically informed patronage of internationally established and respected institutions. A centralised organisation will never have the credibility and legitimacy among artists, curators and arts organisations that comes from the continuity of creative and critical thinking combined with a commitment to a long-term, strategic development of professional contacts and connections. No committee of advisors can ever safeguard the values that NIFCA represents, facilitates and promotes.

The demise of NIFCA would be a great loss not only for the Nordic collaboration in the artistic field. Ultimately, it would damage the international perceptions of Nordic culture (including political culture) in the broadest sense. I only hope that the political powers in Copenhagen will realise that the challenges and opportunities facing international cultural collaboration in the age of globalisation are too great to be left to politicians.

With warm regards,



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