

January 2018

Dear EOA Members,

Happy New Year to all of you!

I am sure, 2018 will be at least as exciting for outsider art as 2017 was. The last twelve months brought us worldwide a multitude of inspiring exhibitions, some well-visited art fairs and several informative conferences and symposia.

Of international importance was the presence of works by three outsider artists on the 57th biennial in Venice (13.5.-26.11.): the Americans Judith Scott and Dan Miller and the Czech Luboš Plný. Most stimulating for me in thinking about outsider art and its contexts were two shows especially: Lucienne Peiry's beautiful presentation „Inextricabilia“ at the Maison Rouge in Paris (23.6.-17.9.) juxtaposed woven, knotted, sewn and plaited works by outsider or other artists and similar anonymous ritual objects. She made us experience how confusingly alike your resonance to the one and the other can be, even if you don't subscribe to Roger Cardinal's idea that outsider art is art by a tribe with just one member. The exhibition „I am no Longer a Dog“ at the spectacular new Silesian Museum in Katowice (31.3.-10.9.), retold the history of Polish society from the sixties to today with a mixture of outsider art and alternative art by prisoners, musicians and other laymen of this country. This was a thought provoking integrative enterprise, affirming the common ground of a lot of art works beyond the mainstream.

The Outsider Art Fairs in New York (19.-22.1.) and Paris (19.-22.10.) were definitely worth visiting, but rewarding was also the fourth 2x2 Forum for Outsider Art (21.-24.9.) at the Kunsthau Kanne near Münster, a small biennial art fair for supported studios and single artists from all over Europe. And of course, I want to point out our well attended and informative conference at the GAIA Museum in Randers which beside an inspiring and well organised program provided ample opportunity for contacts and networking.

Of important news about our members I want to point out just two: The supported studio Geys020 in Braunschweig/Germany started in September an own collection which will also include works from other artists. And in June, the Sør-Troms Museum in Harstad/Norway opened an Outsider Art Street Gallery, the most northern gallery of this kind in Europe now.

I am looking very much forward to see you at the next EOA conference and general assembly in May. This time, the artists themselves are the focus and will be present in many more ways than before, also for example with films, a project which is prepared by NOA, the Nordic Outsider Art network founded in 2015. Please spread the information so that EOA and its benefit will grow. See you in Chichester!

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to welcome the new members who joined during 2017:

New member organisations:

ART OBERT SINIA, Spain

Die Brücke Lahr e.V. - das Atelier, Germany

Kunstwerkstatt Mosaik Berlin, Germany

Outsider Art Fair, USA
Psykiatrisk Center Amagers Projekt Råkunst, Denmark
Safnasafnið, Iceland

New individual members:

Armin Andreas Pangerl, Germany
Jadgleison Rocha Alves, Brazil
Katarina Grbic, UK
Anders Romare, Sweden

Kind regards

Thomas Röske
President of the European Outsider Art Association

EUROPEAN **OUTSIDER ART** ASSOCIATION