



Norwegische Botschaft

## State Support for Visual Arts in Norway and Germany

– An Online Networking Seminar by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin –  
28 April 2021, 1.15pm-3.00pm

Edvard Munch (1863-1944): Self-Portrait after the Spanish Flu, 1919

Collection of the Munch Museum, Oslo

[Self-Portrait after the Spanish Flu – Works – Munchmuseet \(emuseum.com\)](http://Self-Portrait%20after%20the%20Spanish%20Flu%20-%20Works%20-%20Munchmuseet%20(emuseum.com))

Venue: Online conference room of the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin

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A warm welcome to this Online Networking Seminar by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin!

We are very glad you accepted our invitation and hope you will have interesting discussions and meetings with your German and Norwegian colleagues.

Last year we initiated a series of Network Symposiums starting with “Forgotten and (re)discovered female artists: Hannah Ryggen and beyond” on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Then our plan had been to invite to such on site meetings with changing speakers and audience several times a year in order to debate interesting topics in the arts and foster cooperation between Germany and Norway. However, as you all know, this is still not the right time for physical meetings.

But nowadays it might be even more important to exchange ideas and collaborate across borders and also to simply establish contacts and keep in touch in order to inspire each other and to be able to work even better together once the situation has normalized.

We have therefore slightly changed our concept from a Network Symposium, held offline, to an Online Networking Seminar and hope it is as use- and fruitful as the meeting in February last year was.

This April 2021 meeting is the continuation of a short series of similar meeting held a year ago and in which most of you participated. Then we looked mainly into state support for the arts during Corona times (pls. check BBK Berlin’s website for info [bbk berlin zu Gast in der Norwegischen Botschaft: State Support for Visual Arts - Helping Artists during Corona and in Normal Times – bbk berlin \(bbk-berlin.de\)](#) ), while we now want to foster information exchange between Germany and Norway when it comes to financial supports of the arts in “normal” times.

We are planning to continue to bring together small groups of committed players in the international art world online and offline. That also means we would very much like to stay in touch with you and will invite you to future events, too. As we aim at keeping the groups small and allow participants to deepen connections as well as establish new contacts, we might invite some of you to different future events than others, as this allows us to bring in new people each time.

To be always up to date on our work, we suggest you subscribe to the Nordic embassies’ newsletter ([www.nordischebotschaften.org/newsletter](#)) and the Facebook page of the Norwegian Embassy ([www.facebook.com/norwegische.botschaft](#)).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us also in the future when interested in or having questions about the Norwegian cultural scene and cultural policy.

## Contact



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## Intro

It is no news that artists often have a hard time making a living. Therefore, public as private players have put up support schemes like scholarships, residencies and subsidized studio spaces. Norway is known for having a comparably generous system with state financed working grants lasting for up to several years. In Norway it is also regulated how certain institutions must pay artists when exhibiting their works.

It is therefore that artists and artists' institutions in Germany have traditionally been looking north enviously. However, deep knowledge of the Norwegian support system for artists is rare in Germany; understandable, given the fact that such systems are national and as support systems often are governed by rules and laws that take some time to read through. One goal of this seminar is informing the German side more in depth about the Norwegian support system in "normal times" and vice versa as also the Norwegian side is interested in hearing what is happening in Germany.

Based on the discussions we had roughly a year ago, today's seminar also allows for updating each other on support schemes to artists hit economically by the pandemic.

In this reader you will find information on the current support systems and relevant links (the texts are often an extract of those found on the web) as well as a programme for our meeting and a list of participants and information about the institutions they represent. Please keep in mind that both, the seminar and the reader, cannot give a comprehensive overview, but rather an idea about what is done in Germany and Norway these days.

We hope this Online Networking Seminar will not only give you interesting insights, but also inspire you and bring the German and Norwegian art scene more closely together.

## Participants

1. **Thea Breivik**, Head of International Section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway, [thea.breivik@kulturradet.no](mailto:thea.breivik@kulturradet.no)
2. **Ken Stebergløkken**, Senior Advisor, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway, [ken.steberglokkenn@kulturradet.no](mailto:ken.steberglokkenn@kulturradet.no)
3. **Till Ansgar Baumhauer**, Chairman Landesverband Bildender Künstler LBK Sachsen/Association of Visual Artists Saxony, [kontakt@till-ansgar-baumhauer.de](mailto:kontakt@till-ansgar-baumhauer.de)
4. **Doris Frohnäpfel**, Chairwoman BBK NRW/Association of Visual Artists North Rhine-Westphalia, Cologne, former Professor Art Academy Bergen, Norway, [frohnapfeld15@gmail.com](mailto:frohnapfeld15@gmail.com)
5. **Michael Kress**, Spokesperson of Initiative Ausstellungsvergütung and Member of the Executive Committee Deutscher Künstlerbund DKB, Hamburg, [kress@kuenstlerbund.de](mailto:kress@kuenstlerbund.de)
6. **Marcel Noack**, Board member, Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler BBK/German Artists' Association & Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste IGBK, [mail@marcel-noack.de](mailto:mail@marcel-noack.de)
7. **Heidi Sill**, Spokesperson of BBK Berlin/Association of Visual Artists in Berlin, [Heidi.Sill@bbk-berlin.de](mailto:Heidi.Sill@bbk-berlin.de)
8. **Ruben Steinum**, Head of the board of Norske Billedkunstnere NBK/Association of Norwegian Artists, [styreleder@billedkunst.no](mailto:styreleder@billedkunst.no)

From the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin:

9. **Silje Arnekleiv**, Counselor Culture and Press, Norwegian Embassy Berlin, [silje.arnekleiv@mfa.no](mailto:silje.arnekleiv@mfa.no)
10. **Clemens Bomsdorf**, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy Berlin, [clemens.bomsdorf@mfa.no](mailto:clemens.bomsdorf@mfa.no)

# Programme

Wednesday, 28 April 2021, Venue: Online conference room of the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin (<https://norwegische-botschaft-berlin.wherby.com/kultur> )

**1.15pm** Welcome by Silje Arnekleiv, Counselor, Norwegian Embassy, Berlin

**1.20pm** Brief Introduction to today's programme – Clemens Bomsdorf, Cultural and Press Officer, Norwegian Embassy, Berlin

**1.25pm** Kulturrådet and its international activities – Thea Breivik, Head of International Section, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway

**1.30pm** Financial support to artists in Norway, an overview & update on support during corona times – Ken Stebergløkken, Senior Adviser Artist Economy, Kulturrådet/Arts Council Norway

**1.40pm** Status Quo in Germany & Q&A-kick off – Marcel Noack, Board member of Bundesverband Bildender Künstler BBK/ German Artists' Association & Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste IGBK

**1.45pm** Exhibition renumeration & kunstavgiften - the Norwegian way – Ruben Steinum, Head of the board of Norske Billedkunstnere NBK/Association of Norwegian Artists

**1.50pm** Q&A kicked off by Till Ansgar Baumhauer, Chairman Landesverband Bildender Künstler LBK Sachsen/Association of Visual Artists Saxony

**2.00pm** #PAYTHEARTIST: fighting for fair remuneration of contemporary artistic practice – Michael Kress, Spokesperson of Initiative Ausstellungsvergütung and Member of the Executive Committee Deutscher Künstlerbund DKB

**2.05pm** Berlin's support to artists from the artists point of view – Heidi Sill, spokesperson BBK Berlin

**2.10pm** Q & A

**2.20pm** The subsidized artist? - What it means for an artist to receive annual state support – Ruben Steinum, NBK

**2.25pm** Q&A kicked off by Doris Frohnapfel, Chairwoman BBK NRW

**2.35pm** final discussion

**3.00pm** ends

## Participating institutions – brief info & links

### Kulturrådet / Arts Council Norway

Arts Council Norway supports arts and cultural projects throughout Norway. It conducts developmental work and is an advisor to the central government on cultural affairs.

Arts Council Norway was established in 1965 in order to administer the Norwegian Cultural Fund. Today, Arts Council Norway is in charge of a broad spectrum of administrative tasks and functions within the cultural field, including artists' grants, the Audio and Visual Fund and a number of other funding schemes.

Arts Council Norway is the main governmental operator for the implementation of Norwegian cultural policy. Arts Council Norway functions as an advisory body to the central government and public sector on cultural affairs. The Arts Council is fully financed by the Ministry of Culture.

Arts Council Norway helps to ensure that art and culture are created, documented, preserved and made accessible to the broadest possible audience. The aim is to guarantee an arts and cultural sector in Norway that is vibrant and diverse.

Each year, the Council receives some 20,000 applications for funding. In 2017, the Council will handle around € 139 million in state funds earmarked for arts and culture, about 10% of the national cultural budget.

Arts Council Norway also manages government initiatives in the museum sector. The Arts Council has a staff of around 120 people.

<https://www.kulturradet.no/english/vis/-/arts-council-norway-main>

### Norske billedkunstnere NBK / Association of Norwegian Visual Artists

The Association of Norwegian Visual Artists (NBK) is a membership organisation committed to *promote and enhance the intellectual, social, legislative and economic interests of professional visual artists*.

As a parent organisation with [14 regional organisations and five discipline-specific, nationwide artists' organisations](#), in addition to the Young Artists' Society (UKS), our 3000 members represent a large percentage of artists within the visual field. Organisational roots date back to 1882 and the first ever national state exhibition [Høstutstillingen](#).

As an artists' union, NBK is the collective voice of visual artists living and working in Norway. NBK has long been recognized by the government as a negotiation and consultative body where questions related to art and artists conditions are concerned.

A main task for NBK is to document the need for public support and regulations of different kinds, and work in favor of different means of solutions to the economic challenges faced by artists. The National Convention is the organization's highest deciding body, and consists of representatives elected by NBK members. The National Convention decides the current strategic plan – the general issues the board will focus on during a consecutive two year period.

<https://www.norskebilledkunstnere.no/english/>

### Deutscher Künstlerbund/ Association of German Artists

As a forum for the avant-garde the Deutscher Künstlerbund (Association of German Artists) was founded in 1903 on the initiative of Harry Graf Kessler, promoter of arts and artists, Lovis Corinth, Max Liebermann, Alfred Lichtwark and Max Slevogt among others in Weimar. After its liquidation by the National Socialists in 1936 it was re-established in 1950 by the artists Willi Baumeister, Karl Hofer, Ewald Matré and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff in Berlin.

Today about 750 renowned visual artists are members of the association. Since its foundation, the Deutscher Künstlerbund – at the beginning still in the position of a pioneer – has competently and dedicatedly assumed politico-cultural duties and responsibilities in our society.

It perceives itself as an association of visual artists, who commit themselves to the protection of their members' interests while respecting each other's work. The members of the Künstlerbund cooperate in national and international governmental committees, boards of curators and panels which play an advisory role in the debating of legislative regulations. In the meantime, many of the initiatives of the Deutscher Künstlerbund have established themselves as a matter of course in the cultural everyday life such as the institution of the social security fund for artists.

The Deutscher Künstlerbund regards itself as a vibrant place of artistic debate and critical discourse. Its project space in Berlin provides an attractive platform for the discussion of current questions and contemporary positions.

The Deutscher Künstlerbund stands up for the continuance of artistic license as an indispensable foundation for further cultural development and for a vigorous position of art and artists in society.

<https://www.kuenstlerbund.de/english/home.html>

## BBK Berlin Berufsverband Bildender Künstler\*innen Berlin / Visual Artists' Association Berlin

The bbk berlin currently organizes more than 2,370 visual artists of all genres.

Every artist has interests. Only through unified action can artists push these interests through. The Professional Association of Berlin Visual Artists serves as a platform and an instrument to that end.

bbk berlin represents the general interests of its occupational group from a professional, social and economic standpoint and implements them with respect to the government and its administrative agencies, private and public exhibitors, as well as galleries, museums, art associations and the art trade.

In addition, bbk berlin offers its members the most diverse services in the form of wide-ranging information, advice and support.

The goal of bbk berlin is to create a framework of conditions for all visual artists, making it possible to work independently of obligations to adapt or commercialize and without restrictions on artistic freedom. In the interests of artists, bbk berlin is committed to transparency and having a say on committees that make decisions on art. In addition to the imperative presence at relevant meetings and conferences of important committees, the association mobilizes its members when pressure appears necessary to push through interests.

With more than two thousand professional visual artists in all art areas and artistic positions, the association is one of the largest artist organizations in Germany. It is non-partisan and not linked to government. bbk berlin is financed by the contributions of its members alone and thus maintains its independence as an advocate of visual artist interests.

The facilities established by bbk berlin are combined in two jointly used branch subsidiaries: Educational Project GmbH and the publicly subsidized Cultural Project GmbH. The facilities of bbk berlin serve for the organized sponsorship of visual artists and provide the necessary conditions for the creation of art that do not exist on the open market or are associated with high costs.

Up to four thousand artists from home and abroad use the workshops and studios of bbk berlin, participate in exhibitions and projects for art-on-public-premises, and participate in workshops, seminars and organized events for continuing professional improvement and artistic experience.

[https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front\\_content.php?idart=3831&idartlang=5357&idcat=34&changelang=5](https://www.bbk-berlin.de/con/bbk/front_content.php?idart=3831&idartlang=5357&idcat=34&changelang=5)

## BBK Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler / German Artists' Association

Since 1972, the Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler e. V. (Federal Association of Visual Artists) has represented the professional interests of freelance visual artists vis-à-vis federal politics and the administration. It is a non-partisan contact partner for the federal states in transnational matters, for members of the German Bundestag and for committees of the European Union.

The BBK Federal Association is the umbrella organization of all german federal BBK associations and their members or member associations, except bbk berlin. All together the federal associations of all federal states have more than 10,000 visual artists members. It is a strong community of solidarity and lobby for all professional visual artists in Germany, out of which more than 65.000 are members of the Künstlersozialkasse. [see [KSK: Künstlersozialkasse](#); social security system for self-employed artists and publicists]. In its ongoing cultural and educational policy work the BBK Association is engaged in five main topics. [see pdf: [working program](#)]

1. We cooperate closely with other national artists' associations, like Deutscher Künstlerbund and GEDOK, cultural policy actors in civil society and various international associations and therefore intensify the art networks.
2. We observe and analyse the social situation of visual artists and develop strategies to improve the economic situation and social security of artists as well as the cultural-political framework for their artistic production. Since 1994 we run a long-term study, a periodically survey about the economic and social situations of fine artists in Germany. The results of this years survey will be published in a brochure and detailed discussed on a symposium at the Akademie der Künste Berlin on 13.11.2020.
3. We challenge the critical discourse of the art world and advocates the freedom of art and culture and a democratic, tolerant society.
4. We advocate the Fair transfer of knowledge – conservation and publicize of culture heritage.
5. And we are engaged to enlarge the position of musical education.

### General financial support and structure

1. In Germany, the financial support to artists is first and foremost the responsibility of the municipalities and the federal states (Länder).
2. In the municipalities and the federal states is a great variety of funding instruments: among other things, financial funding for art projects, the purchase of works of art (for example municipal collections, Arthoteken ect.) as well as the awarding of commissions and scholarships, the funding of exhibition and performance spaces, studios and production facilities, the announcement of competitions and prizes, and the awarding of publication grants.
3. The "Handbook of Cultural Prizes" ([www.kultturpreise.de](http://www.kultturpreise.de)) alone, to give you one example, lists 364 entries in the field of visual arts throughout Germany, many of them awarded at the municipal and state level.
4. The funding for artists by the Federal Government (Bund), first of all by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media, has, however, gained in importance in recent years.
5. Selected cultural institutions and artists' associations with nationwide significance (and the funding programs they run) are supported or financed by the Federal Government. In addition, the Federal Cultural Foundation (Bundeskulturstiftung) and the Art Fund (Kunstfonds) are financed by the Federal Government.
6. Examples of such programs, which are partially implemented by artists' associations like BBK, are 'Kultur macht STARK' or the Corona support program 'Neustart Kultur (Restart Culture) for visual artists.
7. The Federal Cultural Foundation (Bundeskulturstiftung) supports innovative projects in an international context, also in the field of visual arts.

8. And the Art Fund (Kunstfonds) supports artists as well as galleries, art associations (Kunstvereine), museums and publishers through grants, project funding and publication subsidies.
9. Other federal support measures are:  
Federal Art in Buildings and in Public Spaces programs (an obligation, particularly on the part of the state as the building owner, to use a certain proportion of the construction costs of public buildings for works of art) Scholarships abroad (i.e. Villa Romana Florenz or Cité Internationale des Arts Paris...) and the Artists' Social Security Fund (Künstlersozialversicherung), co-financed by the Federal Government, which gives self-employed artists a.o. access to statutory health and pension insurance.
10. Last but not least, there is of course also private funding for artists in Germany (companies, private foundations such as the Allianz Kulturstiftung), which supports the work of visual artists through funding programs, prizes and grants.

The BBK Federal Association appreciates the German Governments Corona-support (extra payment for artists, but demands for further short-termed actions as expressed in the collective declaration [[see pdf: declaration](#)] of the associations of visual artists (BBK, Deutscher Künstlerbund, GEDOK, IGKB, Internationales Künstlergremium):

- No Coupling of working expenses with a request of guaranteed minimum pension
- Compensation for short-time work to the artists
- Grant access to guaranteed minimum pension for artists from abroad
- Establish an emergency fund for visual artists now and next year.

To ensure the artistic income we need a sustainable culture-economic stimulus plan is required and accomplished by:

- an obligatory remuneration [[see reader](#): symposium exhibition remuneration right in Europe]
- a strengthening of copyrights
- a reduced tax for art trading
- support programs to strengthen artistic production and restore the art infrastructure
- mandatory regulation for art-in-architecture for all public funded buildings
- increase and accordingly resuming the purchasing budget sum for contemporary art to municipal and national museum

<https://www.bbk-bundesverband.de/>

LBK Sachsen is the association of artists in the state of Saxony and one of the members of BBK Bundesverband: [www.lbk-sachsen.de](http://www.lbk-sachsen.de)

BBK Landesverband NRW is the association of artists in the state of North Rhine Westphalia and one of the members of BBK Bundesverband: [www.bbk-landesverband-nrw.de](http://www.bbk-landesverband-nrw.de)

IGBK Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste

The Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) unites Germany's three most important supra-regional artist associations on the basis of equality: Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler (BBK), Deutscher Künstlerbund and Verband der Gemeinschaften der Künstlerinnen und Kunstfördernden (GEDOK). IGBK therefore represents more than 14,000 visual artists in Germany. The association was founded in 1957 as the German National Committee of the International Association of Art (IAA).

IGBK counsels visual artists on the possibilities of working opportunities and grants, both in Germany and abroad. Since April 2013 we have been working on [www.touring-artists.info](http://www.touring-artists.info), a joint project of IGBK, the International Theatre Institute in Germany (ITI) and the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland. The website provides information on visas, residence, transport, customs, taxes, social insurance, and copyright related to cross-border mobility for artists working internationally. Currently touring artists provides also sources with reliable and profound information on the current corona situation. We focus on information on the pandemic's impacts on working across borders and pool the information along important mobility topics.

IGBK organises symposia and workshops on topics of relevance to artists and is engaged with several organisations and networks. In cooperation with its partners, IGBK attempts to insure that the interests of artists are taken into consideration at relevant political and administrative decision-making levels. IGBK is part of the current Executive Committee of the [International Association of Art \(IAA\) Europe](#) and co-organized among others, together with IAA Europe, the symposium '[Exhibition Remuneration Right in Europe 2018](#)' November 2018 in Brussels.

Furthermore IGBK is active in Culture Action Europe (CAE) and in the artists mobility network On The Move (OTM). IGBK is a member of the Kunstrat (Fine Arts Council) of Deutscher Kulturrat (German Cultural Council).

The current IGBK project '[onAIRISM - challenges and transitions](#)' is discussing the work, visions and networking of artists' residencies in selected regions.

The IGBK and its projects are supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the Kulturstiftung der Länder.

<https://www.igbk.de>

## Artists' support systems – brief info & links

Ken Stenbergløkken's presentation on Government Grants for Artists



# Government Grants for Artists

- Five members appointed by the government
- 46 million euros in 2021
- Government Grants for Artists serve to secure diverse and innovative arts activity by providing stipends for individual artists. The grants are awarded based on artistic quality.

Kulturrådet  
Arts Council Norway

1



## Government Grants for Artists

- Ensure a financial basis for artistic activity
- Give creative and performing artists the opportunity to actively pursue their artistic careers and help younger artists to get established professionally
- Grants are awarded by an independent committee appointed by the Ministry of Culture based on recommendations from expert committees appointed by the artist organizations
- Grants are given to professional artists of all categories, including writers, musicians, composers, dancers and visual artists
- Several different types of grant, including the work grant for established and senior artists

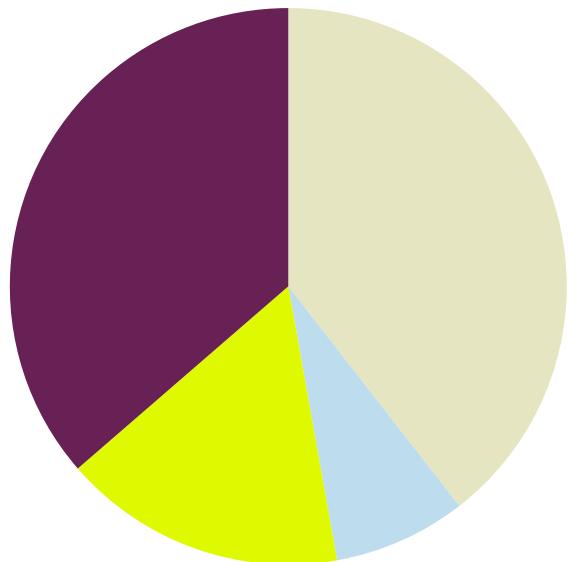
Kulturrådet  
Arts Council Norway

2

- Miscellaneous grant: Lump sum for artistic activity (Up to 80 000 NOK)
- Miscellaneous grant for recently graduated artists: Lump sum for establishing artistic activity (Up to 90 000 NOK)
- Work grant: 1-5 years
- Work grant for younger and newly established artists: 1 -3 years
- Grant for established artists: 10 years
- Grant for senior artists: 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)

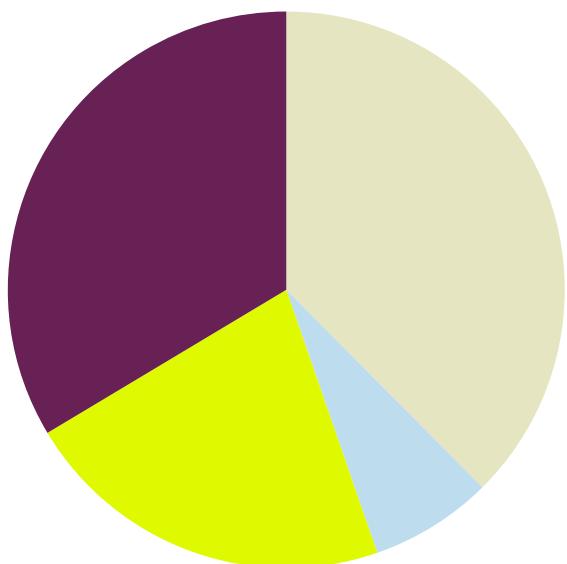
## Government Grants for Artists Budget 2020: 42,4 mill euro

- Work grant 16,8 mill euro
- Misc. grant 3,2 mill euro
- Temporary grant (covid-19) 7 mill euro
- Grant for established artists and senior artists 15,4 mill euro



## Government Grants for Artists Budget 2021: 46,4 mill euro

- Work grant 17,3 mill euro
- Misc. grant 3,2 mill euro
- Temporary work grant (covid-19) 10 mill euro
- Grant for established artists and senior artists 15,4 mill euro



## Government Grants for Artists in 2020 and 2021

### 2020:

9 126 applications (3 675 Temp. grant cov. -19)  
881 applications granted (679 Temp. grant cov. -19)  
12 % of applications granted

### 2021:

11 215 applications  
1 198 applications granted  
11 % of applications granted

## Norwegian grants not related to Corona (examples)

Government Grants for Artists serve to secure diverse and innovative arts activity by providing stipends for individual artists. The grants are awarded on the basis of artistic quality and activity.

The following artist grants can be applied for from Arts Council Norway:

Applicants must primarily reside and work in Norway. Applicants must be active professional artists and must have published, exhibited or shown their work in a public context. Students on BA and MA level are not eligible for grants from Statens Kunstnerstipend.

- **Work grant:** 1-5 years
- **Work grant for younger and newly established artists:** 1-3 years

- **Miscellaneous grant:** Lump sum for artistic activity
- **Miscellaneous grant for recently graduated:** Lump sum for establishing artistic activity
- **Grant for established artists:** 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)
- **Grant for senior artists:** 10 years (or until recipient reaches 67 years)

The closing date for applications is usually in the middle of October.

The Committee for Government Grants for Artists, 5 members appointed by the Ministry of Culture, make the final decision on allocation of grants. 24 selection committeees, with 123 member appointed by artists' organizations, evaluate the applications. Head of the committee is Trude Gomnæs Ugelstad.

Arts Council Norway received 7221 applications for artist's grants in 2017. 894 grants were awarded.

<https://www.kulturradet.no/english>

## Kunstavgiften – The Art Tax

Kunstavgiften/The Art Tax is applicable to art sales where the sale price exceeds 2 000 NOK

### ART SALES

When works of art are sold, 5 % Art Tax is payable in addition to the sale price. In some cases, where the work is sold for more than 50 000 EUR, the percentage of Art Tax payable may be lower. Generally the seller of the work, or the art market professional brokering the deal, is responsible for reporting and payment of The Art Tax.

Work out correct amount of Art Tax payable by using our [calculator](#).

### PUBLIC ART, COMMISSIONS ETC.

The Art Tax is also applicable when a work of art is purchased directly from the artist in the event that the work is a piece of public art, commissioned work or a submission to a competition. In such cases, the owner of the work, once it is completed, is responsible for the reporting and payment of The Art Tax.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ART TAX, AND HOW ARE THE FUNDS ALLOCATED?

The revenue is collected when art is sold and benefits artists and rightsholders through both collective and individual allocation schemes. The collective schemes are managed by Bildende Kunstneres Hjelpefond/The Artists' Relief Fund ([BKH](#)) and consist of grants, awards and other allocation schemes. The individual distribution scheme, the artists' Resale Right, is administered by Billedkunst Opphavsrett i Norge/The Norwegian Visual Artists' Copyright Society ([BONO](#)) and is a royalty paid to the artist who has created the work that has been sold. Formally, through law and authorization, BKH and BONO are responsible for separate parts of the Art Tax. However, the two organisations collaborate extensively together on joint reporting and collection of the Art Tax.

<https://kunstavgiften.no/en>

## Exhibition renumeration the Berlin Way

The concept of the "Berlin Model" is simple and has worked like this since January 2016:

This specially created fund, which is firmly anchored in the state budget of Berlin, is provided exclusively for the remuneration of professional visual artists, and thus for the provision of their artistic works or performances in temporary exhibition projects at Berlin's municipal galleries. This ensures that the payments are not made at the expense of exhibition planning. Corresponding contracts for the payment of production, catalogue or material costs, or curatorial services, set-up work or transport costs naturally have to be concluded in addition, as was the case before.

At the beginning of the year, Berlin's municipal galleries submit applications to the Senate Department for Culture and Europe regarding their need for funds and in accordance with their exhibition planning for the full current year. Since January 2018, this has corresponded to the following scale of payments (and important, the payments are to be understood as minimum payments):

- Individual exhibition (1-2 artists): min. € 1,500 / artist
- Small group exhibition (3-9 artists): min. € 500 / artist
- Group exhibition (>10 artists): min. € 250 / artist
- Group exhibition (>30 artists): min. € 100 / artist

The exhibition payment fund, which has been paid to Berlin's municipal galleries, was increased in 2017 from €300,000 to €400,000, and all exhibiting artists benefitted from this, regardless of their place of residence. Before, this was only possible for artists who resided in Berlin.

The municipal galleries themselves manage the funds flowing into the district budgets through contract management. The districts of Berlin cannot use them for purposes other than making exhibition payments.

The galleries conclude contracts with the artists for the exhibition payments. The payment is made as a gross payment, any tax liabilities are to be borne by the artists and the payment is a considered income from artistic activities by the artists' social insurance fund (KSK).

From an artist's point of view, you cannot get rich with these payments. They are, however, more than a symbol, namely a sign of the explicit appreciation of artistic work by the representatives of the public.

Considering the precarious economic foundation of the artistic profession in most cases, additional income, even if only a few hundred euros per year, can definitely be of great importance to individual artists.

In addition, exhibition payments are freely negotiable at any time; each state and municipality can set rules for this purpose which they themselves consider appropriate and plausible. The State of Berlin has made use of this room to manoeuvre and has thus sent an extremely important message to all the other states in Germany.

After initiatives in the German Bundestag to reform copyright law in the interest of visual artists failed ten years ago, the bbk berlin, in cooperation with the municipal galleries, has been working towards the realisation of this pragmatic and simple model.

From/More: <https://www.bbk-berlin.de/en/what-we-have-achieved.payments-grants-infrastructure>

Working grant by Berliner Senat – my experiences (notes by Heidi Sill, bbk berlin)

I am happy to share with you my experience with one of the stipends of the city of Berlin ... I received in 2016. The eleven work stipends of €18,000 each are dispensed in nine monthly payments of the respective funding year. Individual artists can apply every second year.

In addition to financial support, recipients will be invited to participate in a group exhibition (for many years in the nbk berlin) with catalogue and side programme organized in the nbk (readings, performances, music, panels, discussions ... VIP meeting / Dinner with the artists, journalists and state secretary before the official public opening).

Until 2016, external curators curated the show and selected the works of the individual artists. Combined with a studio visit, of course. In my case, this was the curator Rhea Dall (she was Director of Bergen Assembly and is now Head of Overgaden in Copenhagen). This was of course super great, as I was able to present my work to a curator - who I had not known personally before. She had encouraged me to exhibit a series of older works that I had not even thought about myself. But in the discussion with her, I realized how important these works are for my entire artistic career. So, it was a great plus for me that also changed my perspective a bit. We artists don't always have to exhibit the latest works. The overall work is very important. That may sound banal now, but we are also constantly exposed to the pressure of the ever-new.

The grant is great, of course, to get nine months of regular money and to be able to do what you do in your artistic work. So there are no conditions, just to continue and develop your own work. I had a similar stipend after my studies in Bavaria, but this stipend was only for one artist a year. Berlin gives this stipends to eleven artists, this goes along with the reasoning that this is an excellence stipend, but I am sure there would be so many more excellent artists than just eleven per year. The jury line-up is different every year, and regular changes are very important, but also show how much you depend on the line-up. Naturally each jury member has a certain attitude towards art.

Very important is the associated publication and the accompanying program. An insane number of people come to the exhibition opening, the work is seen, and is very well attended. Which of course seems even more important today (in pandemic times). The recent exhibition of the last year could just be opened one day, all other events were cancelled, the exhibition closed.

I would like to see more than 11 stipends awarded, but if it is left at that to serve the so-called "excellence status", then the so-called "research stipends" should be permanently increased in Berlin. So far, there are 60 stipends with 8000 euros per year. This year, due to the pandemic, there will be 239 stipends, but this should be installed permanently. This stipends is for research or preliminary work on a specific topic, for the development of projects, for the exploration of new working techniques, for the continuation or completion of certain works or a publication.

## Other relevant links

Economic situation of artists in Germany – 2020 survey: [BBK Bundesverband - Publikationen - Umfrage zur wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Situation \(bbk-bundesverband.de\)](#) & 2019 from the national statistical office: [Fine art: net monthly income of 36% of the people in employment lower than 1,100 euros in 2019 - Statistisches Bundesamt \(destatis.de\)](#) (for more details see German version: [Bildende Kunst: 36 % der Erwerbstätigen hatten 2019 ein Nettomonatseinkommen unter 1 100 Euro - Statistisches Bundesamt \(destatis.de\)](#) )

Handbook of Cultural Prizes: [www.kulturpreise.de](#)

Berlin Studio III exhibition: [Study: Berlin Studio III 2018, IFSE | bbk berlin \(bbk-berlin.de\)](#)

Collective bargaining agreements for self-employed – scope of application EU competition rules: [Collective bargaining agreements for self-employed – scope of application EU competition rules \(europa.eu\)](#)

Pay the Artist conference 11 May 2021: [Save The Date – PAY THE ARTIST – INITIATIVE AUSSTELLUNGSVERGÜTUNG \(initiativeausstellungsverguetung.de\)](#)

[Save The Date –... - Initiative Ausstellungsvergütung \(facebook.com\)](#)

[Norway Announces an Additional EUR 6.4 million in Support for Artists - Kunstkritikk](#) (October 2020)

Kunstkritikk – Nordic Art Review: [Kunstkritikk – Nordic Art Review](#)

Norwegian Ministry of Culture: [Ministry of Culture - regjeringen.no](http://Ministry of Culture - regjeringen.no)

Young Artists' Society: <https://www.uks.no/about/>

Talk by Heidi Sill on exhibition renumeration: [ausstellungshonorare: das berliner modell - ig bildende kunst](http://ausstellungshonorare: das berliner modell - ig bildende kunst)

Exhibition catalogue „Hours and Hours of Inactivity”: [n.b.k. - Publikationen](http://n.b.k. - Publikationen)