Skandinaviska Föreningens Konstnärshus i Rom

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Challenging times

The last four years have been challenging for Circolo Scandinavo, to say the least. Not only have we had to deal with cuts in fundings from the Nordic Council of Ministers, but we also had to deal with an unprecedented pandemic for two whole years. Together, these setbacks meant that our AiR program, one of the main reasons for Circolo Scandinavo's existence, had to be temporarily closed. I say "temporarily" because the board sincerely hopes that we will succeed in making the NCM aware of the fact that without an annual contribution from them there is a risk that the activities will permanently cease or fundamentally change.

Nordic politicians' vision of the future of Mother Earth is noble and presented with good intentions. After all, it is the responsibility of democratically elected politicians to work on issues that improve the prosperity and well-being of people and nature. However, the benefit of arts and culture cannot be undervalued; they enrich the spirit and improve people's mental health. It is therefore natural to question the decision to abolish one in favour of the other; can these two values not coexist? Throughout the ages, artists have seen the need to travel to deepen their understanding of the world, their interpretation of it and replenish their creativity. We are all familiar with the old phrase that all roads lead to Rome. Indeed, they still do.

Circolo Scandinavo has brought together Nordic artists for over 160 years. Here, compositions and stories have been created, along with paintings, sculptures, and stage performances. Many of these works would not have been created except for the spark that ignites when creative people from different art forms meet by chance. As a result, Nordic cultural heritage has been vastly enriched.

One of the challenges the board and director of CS have been dealing with is how difficult it has proved to prompt the Nordic politicians' understanding of the role of culture in implementing the ideology of sustainable development. The Nordic Vision 2030 has been shaped by the urgent need for a green transition for the benefit of humanity and the earth. But the mistake made by the NCM when the vision was written out was to simultaneously cut the donations to Nordic cultural projects. Thus, Vision 2030 was used

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as a pretext to cut the contributions to CS by 20%, 5% per year for four years, and finally cutting the contribution completely in 2024.

Since this became clear, the board has done its utmost to convince the ministers that this was not a good decision. Countless letters have been written and articles submitted to the media to draw attention to the importance of CS, and the need for continued support. At the same time, a lot of work has been done to raise funds from other sources. The AiR program was temporarily put on hold and the facilities were leased to persons who could afford to pay higher rent.

The results of the fight for the continued support of NCM have not yielded the results that the board would have wanted. We were afforded a temporary grant from NCM for 2024, which will allow us to survive this year, but nothing is known about support next year or in the years to come. It goes without saying that this type of activity cannot be sustained if there is no predictability in the management operation and financial status.

This challenging financial situation has driven the board of CS to assess the value of the assets that CS owns in works of art, visual art, and books. And now the board has decided to start selling these works. This summer we will be offering a collection of drawings, which we have called Friendship Portraits - Venskabsportrætter. These are more than 70 portraits spanning seven decades of artistic creation by Nordic artists here at Circolo Scandinavo in Rome. This decision was certainly an emergency measure, but at the same time we know that CS is not a museum and does not have the ability to preserve sensitive works of art of this kind. So, the board now has high hopes that the drawings will end up in the hands of museums or collectors who have the capacity and knowledge to preserve them for life. But the most important thing is the (temporary) lifeline the financial value of these portraits creates for Circolo Scandinavo.

Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir

Chair of the board of Circolo Scandinavo

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Presentation

Circolo Scandinavo, the Scandinavian association in Rome, is an active interdisciplinary platform for Nordic and international exchange in art, culture, and science, with its roots in a long historical Nordic presence in Rome. The association was founded by Nordic artists, writers, musicians, journalists, and diplomats in Rome in 1860 and is today the oldest Nordic cultural association outside the Nordic region.

- Circolo scandinavo maintains and promotes a common Nordic heritage constituted by a collection of books, manuscripts and art works, dating from the beginning of the 19th century until today and located in the premises of the association in Rome.
- Circolo scandinavo supports exchange between the Nordic region, Italy and the world in the field of art, culture and science.
- Circolo scandinavo offers an interdisciplinary residency programme to artistic and cultural practitioners connected to the Nordic region, in Rome and in several other locations in Italy.

Circolo Scandinavo supports free artistic and cultural expression with a strong anchorage in the society of today.

Through time, Rome has been a natural destination for artists, architects and scientists. Today, the city can not only offer a fantastic cultural heritage but also a dynamic contemporary cultural life that is in many ways more adapted to society's major challenges in the field of education, environment, reuse, cultural heritage, migration and the relationship between man and nature. We can see in our different collaborations and in the applications for our residency program that many Nordic people have a great need to meet a local and international culture in the Mediterranean region.

We work for Circolo to be an open and free space but at the same time keep a strong anchorage in the surrounding society and its challenges. As a small association, we have great flexibility which allows us to be reactive and collaborate easily with important public institutions as well as small organisations or individuals.

During 2023, Circolo scandinavia continued to develop collaborations in various fields. The Nordic collaboration is in focus through partnerships with Nordic and international universities and educational institutions in the field of art, architecture, urban planning, heritage and environmental studies.

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An important work has been done to deepen the exchange with the Nordic institutes in Rome. The second edition of a Nordic cultural month was a cooperation between Circolo scandinavo, the Nordic embassies and the Nordic research institutes in Rome, and took place in Rome during November 2023. The opening event with around 180 guests took place at Circolo scandinavo, which also hosted several events and offered accommodation to Nordic participants in the festival.

Circolo Scandinavo is part of a unique international network of 39 foreign cultural and research institutes based in Rome. Rome is also the headquarters of three UN departments working for development in the field of food and agriculture. This gives us a unique opportunity to offer international collaborations and individuals.

Financing

The insecurity for future funding was in focus during the entire year. Since the 1990', a contribution from the Nordic Council of Ministers stands for the main part of the funding for the residency program. In 2020 the association already suffered from the effects of the pandemic when the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to cut the association's contribution gradually over a four-year period which led to a planned total cut for Circolo scandinavo+s funding in 2024.

During 2023 the Director and the board have continued to work hard to try to make the Nordic ministers change their plan. Media was contacted in the spring and several articles were published about the financial situation. In November 2023 the Nordic Council of Ministers opened a call for a specific funding of cultural activities abroad for which Circolo scandinavo applied.

During its history, Circolo scandinavo has received various complementary funding from private and public funds. Today most grants are linked to specific projects and cannot finance the residence programme continuously or more than a small part of the operational costs. In 2023 the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland (Svenska kulturfonden i Finland) continued to their support by offering a yearly assistant and a complementary grant. During the fall semester 2023 the board and the director had some time to work on new applications for funding from several funds in Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

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Residency programme

One of the main activities of Circolo scandinavo is to provide an interdisciplinary residence programme focused on art and culture, mainly open to professionals from all artistic and cultural fields. The residency programme offers time and space to develop free research and artistic production, but also encourages meetings with other cultures and disciplines.

During the application period from 1st February to 1st April 2023 Circolo scandinavo received 286 applications. Due to great uncertainty in the future financing the Board had to suspend the residency programme from October 2023. In collaboration with the Nordic institutes and Embassies in Rome the rooms were offered to host scholars, cultural workers and artists participating in their activities during the last three months of the year. The guests paid a research residence fee following the price at the Swedish institute in Rome.

Cultural programme and activities

All year around CS offers a programme of events, talks, screenings, concerts and workshops organised by its artistic director, regularly in collaboration with local institutions and with the Nordic institutions in Rome, with the aim to create connections for the Nordic residents and other Nordic artists or scholars

The residents are offered a variety of activities organised by the foreign and local, private and public organisations in Rome. The artistic director sets up specific meetings, visits, and invites special guests depending on specific needs and interests of the residents. The residents are offered special entrances to libraries and museums in Rome.

From May to August a first edition of a yearly cultural festival was organised by Palaexpo at Palazzo delle esposizioni, the main contemporary art institution of the City of rome. Circolo was presented as one of the first foreign academies in Rome. The Director was invited to participate in a round table on women in the academies and Palazzo degli esposizioni hosted several sceenings of Nordic films in the frame of Nordic film fest.

In 2023 Circolo Scandinavo was invited to take part in two projects organised by independent cultural organisations and financed by the City of Rome, site specific contemporary art and performance by Locales, and the theatre festival Teatro Eco(logico). In June 2023 the theatre festival organised a presentation in the garden via Santa Sabina.

Circolo scandinavo has continued its collaborations with several Italian and Nordic universities. Students and scholars from Malmö university, European research programme Heriland, Oslo university, Villa Lante were offered visits at Circolo scandinavo.

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CALENDAR 2023

Events and activities at Circolo Scandinavo and participation by staff and residents in

Blue - the events taken place at Circolo Red - the events organised by Circolo and taking place outside the residence Green - the events organised by others that Circolo participated in

5.1 @Circolo Scandinavo

Group of 30 + students from Göteborg university visits Circolo to view the residence and learn about our function.

6.1 @Circolo Scandinavo
Dinner with the residents

10.1 @Circolo Scandinavo Dinner with the residents

20.12 @Circolo Scandinavo

SIMKA, artists in residence, presented their work + aperitivo. We invited all residents and staff from the Nordic institutes to participate.

- 23.1 Poetry exhibition by Tiina Hallikainen @ Villa Lante
- 26.1 Research Seminar "Anatomy of ruins" by Vincent Dumay @ Swedish Institute

27.1 @Circolo Scandinavo

Glafira Galuzin presented the work produced during her residency period.

- 27.1 Event "On Dreams" @ Swiss Institute
- 30.1 Silvia Sbordoni exhibition at Villa Massimo

4.2 @Circolo Scandinavo Aperitivo with the residents

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15.2 @Circolo Scandinavo

The Chair of the Swedish School in Rome visited Circolo.

19.2 "Green" Carnival at Villa Lante

23.2 @Circolo Scandinavo

SWEA Rome association visited Circolo. Marie presented the activities for 20 members.

25.2 @Circolo Scandinavo

Invited guests from La Sapienza - resident Nina Torp hosted a lunch at Circolo and showed her work in progress.

20.3 @Circolo Scandinavo Board Meeting

21.3 @Circolo Scandinavo

Board Meeting + dinner for residents and board.

2.4 @Circolo Scandinavo

Following the Finnish government election online "Vaalivalvojaiset"

7.4 Residents were guided in Testaccio by Marie and assisted the Via Crucis celebration on the Testaccio hill.

17.4 @Circolo Scandinavo

Visit by Nina Kartal, journalist at Kulturnyheterna, SVT.

19.4 Concert @ Villa Lante

26.4 @Circolo Scandinavo Board Member Meeting

27.4 @Circolo Scandinavo

General Assembly

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28.4 @Circolo Scandinavo Shooting film about Circolo. Reception for Norwegian and Finnish students.

6.5 @Circolo Scandinavo
Aperitivo with the residents

9.5 @Circolo Scandinavo

Marie held a study visit to Quadraro with students from the European project Heriland Cultural heritage followed by visit to Circolo.

13.5 @Circolo Scandinavo
Poetry talk with artists in residents.

16.5 @Circolo Scandinavo Shootoíng film about Circolo.

6.6 Marie and one of the residents visited Naples and met with the theatre Tableau vivant.

8.6 The staff of Circolo had a study visit with lunch at FAO, UN Food and agricultural organisation.

9.6 Opening at Villa Medici "Vernissage Exhibitions"

12.6 @Circolo Scandinavo

Meeting with all Nordic institutes and Embassies at Circolo to prepare the festival Novembre Nordico 2023.

15.6 Opening at Villa Massimo "Festa dell'Arte"

16.6 @Circolo Scandinavo

Talk and Dinner at Circolo with special guest Alessandro Petti and Sandi Hilal, Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale 2023.

17.6 Nordic films @ PALAEXPO

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20.6 "Donne e Accademie" (Women and the academies) - Marie Kraft participated in the talk at PalaExpo.

21.6 @Circolo Scandinavo

Open House - AiRs presented their work and guest speaker Suzanne Osten presented her background and current film project in Rome.

23.6 Midsummer celebrations at the Danish Institute

28.6 @Circolo Scandinavo

"Goodbye lunch" with the residents before three of them left

28.6 Spanish Academy opening of the exhibition *Processi 150* created by their current artists in residency

13.7 Il Cinema in Piazza with the residents: "The Immigrants"

20.7 @Circolo Scandinavo

Open House in collaboration with *Festa Di Teatro Eco Logico A Rome,* 50 guests in the garden of Circolo.

12.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

Wine tasting for the AiR and guests by the De Sanctis vineyard

15.9 Finnish film Fallen Leaves at Villa Medici open air cinema

16.9 Photo book festival CHARTA with the theme HUMAN X NATURE around Rome but primarily San Lorenzo area

21.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

AiR birthday celebration aperitivo

26.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

Biocities book presentation & aperitivo, 60 guests in the garden of Circolo

27.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

Six participants from the general Assembly of Cooking sections meeting at Circolo

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28.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

Saara Heikinheimo and Kirsi Saarikangas, Vice Chair of the Board of the Foundation Villa Lante meeting concerning future collaborations with artist in residence programme

29.9 Visit to the De Sanctis vineyard in Frascati with the residents to learn about the area and vinery

30.9 @Circolo Scandinavo

Goodbye aperitivo for the AiR that stayed end of summer and beginning of the fall

9.10 @Circolo Scandinavo

Five teachers from Malmö University teachers' education visited Circolo.

13.10 @Circolo Scandinavo

Swedish church in Rome meeting concerning future cooperation

21.10 Director Marie Kraft participated in a talk on Artist in residence programmes at Superotium in Naples.

25.10 @Circolo Scandinavo

Meeting for the opening Novembre Nordico with the Scandinavian institutions and embassies.

26.10 Evening in the footsteps of Christina of Sweden Residence of the Ambassador of Sweden. Festival Novembre nordico.

27.10 Vernissage: NINA TORP: METHODS OF PATTERNMAKING / Between knowing and speculation Museo Delle Origini. Festival Novembre nordico.

30.10 @Circolo Scandinavo

Opening ceremony for Novembre Nordico at Circolo, organised by all the nordics together for a very successful evening of invited guests, 180 guests. Festival Novembre nordico.

- 31.10 5.11 Autumn symphony Ingmar Bergman, Teatro Di Documenti. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 2.11 Vernissage: She affects us, indeed Sophie Westerlind, L'istituto Svedese di Studi Classici a RomaFestival Novembre nordico..

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- 2.11 Salmon soup cooking class online with Kimmo, Chef at the Finnish embassy. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 5.11 Concert Tiril Holand: "Viaggiatori Italiani in Europa", San Silvestro church (Viterbo, VT). Festival Novembre nordico..
- 6.11 Seminar on the Finnish architect and theorist Reima Pietilä: Inside the Outsider in Finnish Architecture, Institutum Romanum Finland. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 6.11 Evening of Ibsen, at the Norwegian Institute. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 8.11 From Norway to Jerusalem: the journey for king Sigurd Jórsalafari (1107-1111). Conference with Francesco D'Angelo, at the Norwegian instituteFestival Novembre nordico..
- 9.11 Concert Tiril Holand: "La gloria del Barocco", Teatro PalladiumFestival Novembre nordico..
- 9.11 Open house: Swedish residence, Residence of the Swedish ambassador. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 10.11 Director Marie Kraft interviewed by Radio Vaticano.
- 10.11 Artist talk: Nina Torp in conversation with Cecilia Conati Barbaro and Marie Kraft, Museo Delle Origini. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 13.11 Close to Bernini a talk with the Danish author Iselin C. Hermann, at the Danish academy. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 16.11 Finnish design: Talk with Harri Koskinen, Rinascente Roma Via del Tritone. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 18.11 Proclamation of the winner of the Giuseppe Acerbi Literary Prize: Tommi Kinnunen, Comune di Castel Goffredo (Mantova). Festival Novembre nordico.
- 18.11 Helene Flood at Tolfa Gialli&Noir, Centrostudi Italo-Norvegese. Festival Novembre nordico.

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- 18.11 Concert: Cecilia Sanchietti Swedish Quintet, Casa del Jazz. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 21.11 Conference of Santa Brigida from Sweden in mediaeval Rome, at the Norwegian instituteFestival Novembre nordico..
- 21.11 In The Garden of Arctic, at the residence of the Norwegian ambassador. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 22.11 Black Sun: il magnifico viaggio degli storni dalla Danimarca a Roma, at the Danish academy. Festival Novembre nordico..
- 22.11 Premiering: Aki Kaurismäki Fallen Leaves, Cinema Nuovo Olimpia. Festival Novembre nordico.

23.11 @Circolo Scandinavo

Cent'anni di Stig Dagerman: Talk given by the students studying Scandinavia at the university of Milan, given at Circolo Scandinavo for 35 peopleFestival Novembre nordico..

- 24.11 Vitruvius in the Nordic Countries: Classical Studies, Archaeology, Art, and Architecture, Centro Studi Vitruviani in Fano (Marche). Festival Novembre nordico.
- 25.11 Open house at the Finnish school in Rome. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 26.11 Istituto Culturale Nordico: Linguistic laboratory and conference for invited. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 28. 11 EUROPHORIA a talk with the Danish director Bjarke Underbjerg at the Danish academy. Festival Novembre nordico.
- 7.12 Circolo organised an Urban studies seminar at the Swedish institute. Participants from Malmö university, University La Sapienza and University Roma 3. Visit to Faculty of architecture, University Roma 3.
- 8.12 Circolo organised a study visit to Garbatella and Testaccio.
- 15.12 The Nordic Christmas lunch hosted at the Swedish Institute

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MAIN COLLABORATORS 2023

MAXXI National Museum of contemporary Art in Rome (Donatella Sartoli, international affairs) https://www.maxxi.art/

Palazzo delle esposizioni, Contemporary art centre of the City of Rome (Lorenzo Benedetti, head curator, Francesca Campana, curator)

https://www.palazzoesposizioni.it/

Stalker, Artist and architecture collective (Lorenzo Romito and Giulia Fiocca) https://stalkerlab.wixsite.com/spontaneamente/about-4

Locales, Rome (Sara Alberoni, curator) https://www.localesproject.org/

Parchi letterari (Stanislao de Marsanich, founder) https://www.parchiletterari.com/

Biocities, European forest institute in Rome (Livia Podesta, communication manager) https://efi.int/staff-list/livia-podesta

Super Otium, residence and cultural centre in Naples (Nicola Ciancio, artistic leader) https://www.superotium.it/

Museo delle civiltà (Matteo Lucchetti, head curator) https://www.museodellecivilta.it/events/il-nuovo-programma-2022-del-museo-delle-civilta/

Cooking sections, art and sustainable food project (D. Fernández Pascual and A.Schwabe, visual artists) https://www.cooking-sections.com/info

Malmö Art museum (Linda Holster, project leader & Kirse Junge Stevsborg, director) https://malmo.se/Uppleva-och-gora/Konst-och-museer/Malmo-Konstmuseum.html

Danish Academy in Rome https://www.acdan.it/

Norske institutt, Norwegian Institute in Rome https://www.hf.uio.no/dnir/english/index.html

Swedish Institute in Rome https://isvroma.org/en/homepage-en/

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Villa Lante, Finnish Institute in rome https://irfrome.org/sv/villa-lante/

Danish Embassy in Rome https://italien.um.dk/it

Finnish Embassy in Rome https://finlandabroad.fi/web/ita/mission

Norwegian Embassy in Rome https://www.norway.no/it/italy/

Swedish Embassy in Rome

https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/italy-rome/contact/

Architecture and Environmental humanities, University Roma 3, (Francesco Careri, Professor) https://www.uniroma3.it/en/

NABA, New art academy (Silvia Simoncelli, Head of school) https://www.naba.it/en

UMARTS research centre, Umeå university (Maria Luna Nobile, Head of research) https://www.umu.se/arkitekthogskolan/

Urban studies, Malmö university, (Elnaz Sarkheyli, Fredrik Linander, Elise Alden, architects & teachers) https://mau.se/om-oss/fakulteter-och-institutioner/kultur-och-samhalle/institutionen-for-urbana-studie r/

Bodö European Cultural Capital (Kristoffer Dolmen, head curator) https://www.bodo2024.no/

DAAR (Alessandro Petti architect, professor &, Sandi Hilal, Architect&Artist) https://www.decolonizing.ps/site/

Giuliana Ciancio, PhD Cultural commons - cultural space, Producer in performing arts, Lecturer.

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CIRCOLO SCANDINAVO RESIDENTS 2023

<u>Circolo scandinavo+s Artist in Residence programme January - October</u>

Ivan Galuzin NO

Glafira Galuzin NO

Erkka Filander FI

Kristian Blomberg FI

Karin Lind SE

Simon Häggblom FI

Nina Torp NO

Sanna Taivainainen FI

Eero Hämeenniemi FI

Magnus Haglund SE

Sara Michaelsson SE

Eva Sommestad Holten DK/SE

Ariel Rosé NO

Björn Båsen NO

Olga Bergmann IS

Anna Hallin IS/SE

Ólöf Ingólfsdóttir IS

Are Blytt NO

Bryndís Snæbjörnsdóttir IS

Juska Jutila FI

Anna Lindal IS

Caroline Bellegaard DK

Amanda F. Koch-Nielsen DK

Sölvi Björn Sigurdsson IS

Anna Torkel FI

Elisabeth Westerlund SE

Jörgen Teller DK

Eva Kun NO

Arne Ingvaldsen NO

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Emergency-residents-programme October - December

(in collaboration with the Nordic institutes and Embassies in Rome)

Astrid Nilsson - Latinist, Svenska institutet

Heli Hämäläinen - Finnish Embassy

Agnes Vendel - Latinist, Svenska institutet

Nina Torp, - Novembre Nordico, Sapienza university

Åse Markussen - Art historian, Oslo

Ola Wetterberg - Cultural heritage studies, ICCROM

Maria Cristina Lombardi - Professor Scandinavian languages, University Orientale, Naples,

Novembre Nordico

Anna Chiara Senatore - Actress, University Orientale, Naples, Novembre nordico

Giuliano d'Amico - Director Centre for Ibsen studies, Oslo, Novembre nordico

Herman Holm - Psychiatrist, Mariehamn hospital, Åland

Davide Sapienza - Photographer, Novembre Nordico, Norwegian embassy

Birgitte Strid - Programme responsible Bodö, cultural capital, Novembre Nordico, Norwegian embassy

5 students - Nordic language course Milano - Novembre Nordico, Swedish Embassy

Anna Brännström, Teacher, Nordic languages, University of Milano - Novembre Nordico,

Swedish Embassy

Peter Parker, Urban studies, Malmö university

Sadiq Gulma, Urban studies, Malmö university

Fredrik Linander, Urban studies, Malmö university

Beatrice Persson, Art historian - Faculty of arts, Gothenburg University

Greger Sundin - Art historian, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm

Anastasia Radovanovo - Art historian, Gustavianum, Uppsala