

PRAXIS

Report from Pilot-PRAXIS, November 18th at Debaser Slussen, Stockholm

Many people from different fields came to join the discussion on internationalization. One of the most important conclusions of the evening was (in my eyes) the importance of artists to get more active in the political process. To form art politics by articulating our integrity as artists - in words and in artistic production - to minimize instrumentalization and to not adjust art production, applications etc, according to political aims in order to get financial support. (By saying this, I don't mean that artists shouldn't follow the laws, guidelines and aims regarding gender equality etc - on the contrary, we need to shape up on all levels.)

Nikolina and Sergej Pristas of BADco, Zagreb, had an extremely inspiring talk about the situation in Croatia and the form of activist strategies the art community there has developed. We can all definitely learn a lot from their approach and engagement. (www.badco.hr)

When it comes to the subject of internationalization there are many levels to work on:

- 1) The practical issues of coordinating the international rules for social security, so that there is a clear practice and communication between different institutions/authorities and minimum risk and administration for the artists.
- 2) The question of political instrumentation and/or national identity production through art. The artists need to be aware when art is being used in political purposes. For example when subsidies are focused only on regions/ countries where the state is planning to invest economically, sell military equipment etc.
- 3) The artistic advantages of international exchange are evident. The necessity of participating in different cultural discourses is evident. What we need to work on is the frames and strategies for doing it. But it is very important to constantly remain a constructive tone in these discussions. Therefore we need to always keep a parallel discussion on the artistic, philosophical and activist potentials in international exchange.

In short, artists need to make sure that the art itself and the artists situation is present when culture policy is produced.

During 2008 the Swedish government will rework the culture policy, and PRAXIS encourages all artists to take the opportunity to formulate their visions and concrete suggestions for change and present it to the government. PRODUKT has produced a short guide to the investigation: What is it about, who to contact, how decisions are made, how to present suggestions for maximum impact etc. Download the guide (in Swedish) [here](#)

Apart from these discussions, PRAXIS proved being a good model from new ways of meeting, networking and inspiring each other within the art field. Seven brilliant DJs, performance by Diggapony, free cava and knäckebröd made the evening a great success. There is a document (in Swedish) that was produced live during the discussion, by choreographer Jens Östberg (text) and curator Jelena Rundqvist (pictures). This document can be downloaded [here](#).

The collaborating organisations (PRODUKT, INPEX, Danscentrum, dance-info.se, Dansalliansen, Svensk Danskommitté and The Theatre Union) will evaluate and see how PRAXIS can become a more permanent part of the Swedish art community.

Anders Jacobson
PRODUKT