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euroArt

THE UNIQUE PROFILE  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION  
OF ARTISTS' COLONIES

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# EUROPEAN ARTISTS' COLONIES

euroArt – the European Federation of Artists' Colonies was founded 1994 in Brussels under the auspices of the European Parliament and the European Commission.

The Artists' Colony as a phenomenon came into being in the first half of the 19th century, when the artists, especially the painters, began to travel to the countryside. They were driven as much by the desire for a simpler, more natural existence as by the wish to rid themselves of academicism in art.

Apart from that, life in the countryside was relatively cheap. With the emergence of plein-air painting, the landscape changed from the background to becoming the subject in their works. French, and later foreign, painters went to Barbizon in the woods of Fontainebleau and, further to the south, Grez-sur-Loing, next to places like Pont-Aven and Concarneau on the coast of Brittany, where life was even rougher and more primitive. After Barbizon, small or bigger artists' colonies sprang up all over Europe, among other countries in England, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Russia, Hungary and Switzerland. Besides the landscape, the local population proved to be a rich source of inspiration. With the painters came friends from many disciplines; writers, poets, composers, representatives of the music- and theatre-world and, in their wake, art critics and art collectors. The artists' colony became a meeting-place for them.

After the First World War most artists' colonies of the old style had come to an end. Art in those days was in pursuit of a different approach. The open-air painting of the landscape and the portraiture of farmer's life had lost their attraction. More and more the painters drew the basic forms of the human spiritual life into their art. The basis for that renewal of art, however, was firmly rooted in the artists' colonies. They renovated European and international art as forerunners and pioneers of Realism, Impressionism, Symbolism, Pointillism, Divisionism, Fauvism, Surrealism and Expressionism. The artists who worked in them often took home new ideas and possibilities and spread these there.

And even more important now is that a lot of the artists' colonies have survived and are blossoming in a new, modern way. Many of them are combined in euroArt.

- preserve the common European cultural heritage of artists' colonies
- create a cultural consciousness among the European citizens
- preserve and promote the artistic tradition of artists' colonies
- promote contemporary art and artists
- promote mutual cultural understanding and intensive cooperation among the members of euroArt, its artists and the regions of Europe
- develop and operate a network of artists' colonies, villages and cities in Europe

## MEMBERSHIP

Who could become a member of euroArt?

- Municipalities of Artists' Colonies
- Museums / Institutions in Artists' Colonies
- Artists Associations
- Individuals

## INTENTIONS EUROART

The art historical phenomenon of the European artists' colonies covers some 175 years and about 130 artists' colonies or villages in Europe. Despite the considerable geographical distance and diverse cultural traditions, there are many similarities of creative accomplishment throughout all the colonies. The artistic and intellectual influence of the contacts between them is enormous.

euroArt seeks to promote the consciousness of a common European cultural heritage as an essential contribution to the development of a European identity. In this, it also strives for extension to the historic artists' colonies of eastern and southern Europe.

## CONTACT

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## PARTNER

Who could support euroArt as a partner?

- Municipalities (Artists' Villages)
- Museums and Institutions, who are related to an Artists' Colony
- Artist associations and artists not based in a Artists' Colony
- Individuals

