# Minutes of the 2026 EuroArt General Meeting
# 24 – 27 September 2026
# Ahrenshoop, Germany

**All presentations and videos are available for download on our website:**
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop/

**Short Agenda**
**09:30 – 11:15 | MORNING PROGRAMME**
1. Opening and welcome
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Meeting
4. Activity Report 2025
5. Financial Report 2025
6. Budget 2027
7. Sponsorship Guidelines
8. Membership & Welcome of New Members

**11:30 – 12:30 | LOOKING FORWARD**
Who We Are, Our Vision, Our Mission & Our Values

**13:30 – 14:00 | EUROART PROJECT MARKETPLACE**
Put something on the table
- SHARE – an activity or project that worked particularly well;
- ASK – a challenge where you would welcome experience, ideas or help from fellow members;
- IDEA – a new idea or initiative you would like to explore with others.

**14:15 – 15:00 | EUROART CAFÉ**
CONNECT
SHARE KNOWLEDGE
CREATE TOGETHER
INCREASE VISIBILITY
DEVELOP THE FUTURE
CREATE CULTURAL IMPACT

**15:00 – 15:25 | WHAT DO WE TAKE HOME?**
Presentation GM 2027: Domburg

**Minutes**

**1. Opening**
President Florian Hartmann welcomed all participants and informed the meeting that Francisca van Vloten was unable to attend due to the serious illness of her partner Arnold van Houten, who had been hospitalised. Her absence was noted with understanding.

**In memoriam – Peter Bürgel** The meeting opened with a moment of remembrance for Peter Bürgel (22 March 1953 – 8 July 2026), former president of EuroArt and long-time member of the EuroArt community from Dachau.

**Approval of the minutes 2025**
The plenary session unanimously approved the minutes of the General Meeting 2025.

**2. SAC Report 2025–2026**
Presented by Eric Schaftlein on behalf of Francisca van Vloten

The Scientific Advisory Committee currently consists of Francisca van Vloten (chair) and Henning Repetzky, following the departure of Eva Frellesvig. Doede Hardeman from Laren, former head of collections at the Kunstmuseum Den Haag and new director of the Singer Museum, has been invited to join the SAC and is exploring whether this is feasible alongside his other commitments.

The SAC advised the Steering Committee to accept several new members and recommended a thorough review of the statutes, particularly regarding the distinction between member members and partner members. The SAC believes it is important to clarify or revise the statutes following further research — for instance, places that are not artists' colonies but are of great art-historical significance should be allowed to become partner members.

The SAC also worked to pave the way for former members to rejoin the federation, though this has proved difficult in the cases of Arvika in Sweden, Ascona in Switzerland, Klausen in Italy and St Ives in the UK. Southern Europe — Italy and Spain in particular — was identified as a priority area for new membership.

The full report can be downloaded here:
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop

**3. ICEAC Report 2025–2026**
Presented by Eric Schaftlein on behalf of Francisca van Vloten

A significant milestone was reached: in September 2026 the deconstruction of the old pavilion at Museum Domburg began, marking the start of the building phase for the new museum and research centre. The total construction budget is approximately 2.5 million euros, of which EuroArt's contribution amounts to 3,000 euros. The digitisation and accessibility of the library and archives remain a top priority. After the opening of the new museum in summer 2027, Arnold van Houten will step down as general director; his

successors Eveline Cleiren (General Director) and Janita Baron (Artistic Director) were introduced.

The full report can be downloaded here:
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop

More information on the ICEAC: https://iceac.eu/

**4. SAC / ICEAC / Scientific Research – Working Group**

The Steering Committee confirmed that scientific research and knowledge exchange remain a key strategic pillar for EuroArt. A working group consisting of Annette Winter-Süss, Pierre Bedouelle, Margot Jongedijk, Francisca van Vloten and Eric Schaflein was established to define the objectives and scope of the scientific pillar, clarify ICEAC's role, identify concrete benefits for members and explore cooperation with universities and European institutions. Eric Schaftlein will also contribute in his capacity as Treasurer, particularly in relation to the financial aspects.Several members raised questions about the legal status of ICEAC and the nature of EuroArt's financial contributions to it. The Steering Committee acknowledged these questions as legitimate and confirmed that the working group will address them transparently. The 3,000 € budget line for ICEAC will only be disbursed once the working group has produced clear outcomes.

**5. Marketing Report**

By Birte Hölscher

Members were reminded of the updated brand name spelling: **EuroArt** in running text (not euroart). Two new regional flyers were presented: a Dutch flyer for the Netherlands colonies and a French flyer for the Fontainebleau area, both financed by local municipalities. The EuroArt postcard was highlighted as a low-cost, high-impact marketing tool and members were encouraged to make it available in their tourist information and museums. Instagram currently has 632 followers with 15,000–20,000 monthly views. Members were urged to always add EuroArt as a Collab Partner on their own Instagram posts and to use the hashtag **#euroart.colonies** when publishing content related to EuroArt, helping to increase visibility and connect posts across the network.A new Art & Travel section is being developed on the euroart.eu website, featuring top destinations and travel inspirations organised around themes and member colonies – currently work in progress.

A complete overview of our marketing materials and the files needed to produce them are available in our shared dropbox folder:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/dffrhqog9krih2d8wlrk4/ADeVIluqz0n_AnL7oa3gPlo?rlkey=pneo29ov6wx08zdbnrhcs9fpc&dl=0

**6. Digital Summer Exhibition 2026 – Animals in Art**

By Margot Jongedijk

The fifth edition of the digital summer exhibition ran from July to October 2026 with 21 participating museums across Europe. For the first time the exhibition was also hosted on the EuroArt website. A discussion arose about the printed flyer: it emerged that very few members are actually printing and distributing it. Members were encouraged to reconsider this, as printed materials remain popular with visitors. Members expressed a preference for a DIN A5 long flyer format.

The topic for the 2027 digital summer exhibition will be **Flowers**. Every EuroArt member is welcome to participate.

**7. EuroArt Funded Projects 2026**

The following projects received EuroArt support in 2026:

- Artists' Colony Katwijk (Ahrenshoop/Katwijk)
- DiverseVisionsCommonValues (Malwerk Oberhausen/Murnau Tusculum),
- Nidden and Modern Lithuania (Flensburg/Nida)
- Oosterbeek the Dutch Barbizon (Barbizon/Nunspeet)
- Art Needs Air! (Dachau/Holzhausen)
- Advertising feature in SIMs Kultur Magazin for Murnau and eleven German artists' colonies.

All funded projects are presented on our website: https://www.euroart.eu/projects

**8. Impressionisms Routes / Cultural Route / INGO Conference of the Council of Europe**

By Pierre Bedouelle (unable to attend in person)

The Impressionisms Routes cultural route was successfully re-certified by the Council of Europe in 2026, with an award ceremony held on 25 September in Yerevan. For 2027 a key highlight is the planned cooperation with the National Art Museum of Ukraine, including an exhibition on Ukrainian Impressionism in Spring/Summer 2027 and artist residencies through the Artists in Motion programme.

**9. Financial Report 2025–2026**

By Eric Schaftlein

The 2025 financial results showed a deficit of -5,518.78 euros, primarily because anticipated sponsorship income of 7,000 euros did not materialise. The bank balance at the start of 2026 was 17,033.99 euros. The 2026 budget is on track and within budget. EuroArt currently has 118 members across 46 artists' colonies in 16 countries. The 2027 budget totals 62,600 euros on both income and expenditure sides. Municipality fees will rise from 10 to 11 cents per inhabitant, with the minimum (500 euros) and maximum (5,000 euros) unchanged.

**Voting**
The Voting for approval was not anonymously. The audience had 195 voting rights in total including the power of attorney

2025 Activity Report:
The 2025 Activity Report was approved (195 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions).

Balance 2025:
The 2025 Balance was approved (177 in favour, 3 against, 16 abstentions).

Discharge to the Governing Body for 2025:
The Governing Body was discharged for 2025 (170 in favour, 0 against, 25 abstentions)

The Budget 2027:
The Budget 2027 was approved (168 in favour, 0 against, 27 abstentions).

Membership fee increase:
The membership fee increase for municipalities of 0.01 Euro per inhabitant was approved (155 in favour, 0 against, 40 abstentions).

**10. Welcome of New Members**

The assembly approved unanimously the admission of six new members:

1. Gemeente Mook en Middelaar (NL) – home to the artists' colony of Plasmolen was connected to us via Zoom and held a live presentation
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop/

2. Gemeente Laren (NL) – presented by a representative of the Singer Museum. The presentation can be found here:
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop/

3. Künstlerhaus Lukas Ahrenshoop (DE)

4. Volendams Museum (NL) presented themselves through a short video.
https://www.euroart.eu/downloads-general-meeting-2026-ahrenshoop/

5. HöhenArt Hürtgenwald e.V. (DE) – home to the artists' colony of Simonskall

6. Municipality Brannenburg (DE) – one of Germany's earliest artists' colonies, established around 1840

New private members: James Vaux (UK), Peter Herrmann (Denmark), Martin Schibli (Sweden).

**11. New Sponsorship Guidelines**

By Vincent Tuijp

New sponsorship guidelines were presented, to take effect from 2028. Key changes: one standard application per member per year, one annual deadline (1 September of the year preceding the activity), and a consistent assessment framework. Cross-border cooperation remains an important criterion but is no longer an absolute requirement – cooperation between EuroArt members within the same country is also eligible when it creates meaningful added value. Maximum support: 20% of eligible costs, up to 4,000 euros per project. 2027 is a transition year; existing arrangements continue to apply. The full guidelines will be published on the EuroArt website after the General Meeting.

**12. Our Vision, Our Mission & Our Values**

By Vincent Tuijp

For the first time in EuroArt's 30-year history a shared Vision, Mission and Values framework was presented. The core idea: *EuroArt connects the heritage of artists' colonies with the creativity, collaboration and ideas that shape Europe's future.* Six strategic priority areas were introduced: Connect, Share Knowledge, Create Together, Increase Visibility, Develop the Future, and Create Cultural Impact. Members were invited to give final comments; the Steering Committee will consider these before finalising the document.

**EuroArt Project Marketplace**

Three projects were presented at the informal marketplace format.

**a) The Artist Residency Programme**– Worpswede, Dachau and Hiddensee

A pilot project in which three colonies worked together around the theme of "Future". Artists spent two weeks in each colony developing site-specific works. In Worpswede, Johannes Munninger explored ideas about the future of rural life through abstract wall paintings on farm buildings. In Dachau, Wolfram Hahn focused on photography, memory and history in public spaces. On Hiddensee, Anna Westphal portrayed young people and the question of how they can build a future on the island, where tourism makes life increasingly expensive. The minimum residency period of two weeks was discussed and considered too short — four weeks was suggested as more appropriate.

**b) The Symposium Working Group – Jamlitz**

Friederike Seifert presented a new working group on symposia. The concept: explore history, discuss the present and think about the future — bringing together art history, contemporary issues and different disciplines. The first symposium is planned for April 2027 on Hiddensee, with the theme "Island". In addition, one or two digital colloquiums per year are planned as a smaller format for knowledge exchange between members. The working

group is currently German-speaking but the symposium itself will be international.

**c) The Burgerpad Volendam**
Vincent Tuijp presented a digital walking route through the historic centre of Volendam, developed by Theo Burger. The route has 25 stops, is accessible via QR code, available in multiple languages and financed by local entrepreneurs. Each stop combines local history with a painting and an artist. The EuroArt logo is integrated throughout. Several routes exist for different audiences — a general route, an artists' route and a children's route.

**13. EuroArt Café**
Six working groups discussed the six strategic priority areas in two rounds of 15 minutes each. Key ideas emerging from the groups included: a pool of project ideas open to all members, a travelling EuroArt blockbuster exhibition, a joint project on female artists in the 19th century, a database of member expertise, an image film for broader audiences, short video reels from member colonies for social media, and connections with younger audiences through programmes such as Interrail and the FSJ (voluntary cultural year). Full summaries from all six tables will be shared separately. The Steering Committee will take the comments and suggestions into consideration and report back at the next General Meeting on how the outcomes of these discussions have been followed up and what has been done with the ideas and proposals received.

**14. Next General Meeting & Closing**
The next General Meeting will take place in Domburg, 30 September – 3 October 2027, hosted by the Municipality of Veere. The opening of the new Museum Domburg and ICEAC is planned for summer 2027. Francisca van Vloten conveyed her delight at the invitation via text message; Arnold van Houten was discharged from hospital the same day.

The meeting was closed by the President with thanks to all participants, to host Roland Fischer and Hotel Fischerwiege, and to the municipality of Ahrenshoop.

The full documents – Vision & Mission Statement, new Sponsorship Guidelines, Financial Reports and EuroArt Café summaries – are available for download on the EuroArt website.

**Save the dates:**

EuroArt Dutch Regional Meeting, in Q1 in Laren 2027

EuroArt German Regional Meeting in Hiddensee: 16 – 18 April, 2027

EuroArt General Meeting in Domburg, Germany: 30 September – 3 October, 2027