



Office of IAA Europe  
Slovak Union of Visual Arts  
Dostojevského rad 2  
Bratislava 811 09 Slovakia  
00421 915 713 315  
[info@iaa-europe.eu](mailto:info@iaa-europe.eu)

### *Having the right and the means to act artistically*

Opening of the IAA Europe Talks online debate series  
*part of global UNESCO ResiliArt movement*

**September 17, 2020**  
**2:00 – 3:30 pm (CET)**  
**online via Zoom**

Welcome and moderation:

**Andrea Kristek Kozarova**

([SUVA – Slovak Union of Visual Artists](#), president of [IAA Europe](#))

Speakers confirmed:

**Fabio Tolledi**

(President of [Italian Centre of International Theatre Institute – ITI](#) and Secretary of the [Theater in Conflict Zones Network - TCZN](#))

**Teemu Mäki**

([Artists' Association of Finland](#) / Finnish National Committee of IAA/ AIAP, board member of IAA Europe)

**Marta Mabel Perez** / to be confirmed /

(Executive Director of The Puerto Rico Museum of Art, [Asociación Puertorriqueña De Artistas Plásticos](#) / Puerto Rico National Committee of IAA/AIAP, treasurer of IAA/AIAP)

The 2020 Corona pandemic has catapulted the world into an unprecedented crisis, medically, socially and economically. This situation has also considerably weakened the social and economic status of artists and of cultural operators, who work most often as freelancers or form small-sized enterprises and are especially vulnerable to economic instability. But also larger institutions of the cultural sector suffer of restrictions in public life and easily fear a loss of state support, when economic pressure weighs hard in political decision-making.

It is under this impression that IAA Europe starts with a series of online debates in the fall of 2020 to bring its members and supporters closer together, to discuss what can be the role of artists associations and especially their international reunion in those times. How can we support artists internationally and assemble material for a successful publicity and advocacy work?

In the opening talk on September 2020 Fabio Tolledi, Marta Mabel Perez and Teemu Mäki will discuss how artists and art institutions currently deal with or recover from the crisis in - exemplarily - Italy, Finland and Puerto Rico. How do artists make a living in those countries? The Corona pandemic did not create the phenomenon, that the arts are largely consumed but artists tend to get paid little for their work. It only reinforced the problem. What measures are governments taking to improve the status of artists and what can be learnt from each other here? How can the foundations for freedom of expression be fostered: having the right to say what you think, but also having the means to actually say it?

In this opening talk, we will also look into the history of the International Association of Art (AIAP/IAA) and the International Theatre Institute (ITI), both associations in partnership with UNESCO: What is their (common) strategy, what are their current activities? How can we get inspired across the artistic branches, where can we support each other?

The moderated discussion amongst the speakers will be followed by an open Q&A session, we look very much forward to the participation of our members to engage in the debate.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> talk in the IAA Europe Talk series is scheduled for November/December 2020. [Register](#) for the IAA Europe Newsletter to be informed about updates.

The IAA Europe Talks are organized by the office of IAA Europe c/o Slovak Union of Visual Arts. Thank you to the Executive Secretary of AIAP/IAA World in Paris and to the IGBK/National Committee of Germany for suggestions and support in the organization of the IAA Europe Talks series.