

4. NOVEMBER 2016

Press release

The new HANDMADE

The Nordic Culture Fund has awarded a total of DKK 4 million to eight projects under its HANDMADE initiative, the funding programme that supports and stimulates handmade arts and crafts.

Due to unusually keen interest and the quality of the applications received, the Fund added an extra DKK 1 million to the pool, bringing it to a total of DKK 4 million, and making it the biggest ever round of funding for a single initiative.

The eight projects are:

- **Acoustically Active Augmented Instruments:** 450 000 DKK (60 400 EUR)
Otso Lähdeoja, FI & DK, NO
- **Craft Rituals:** 700 000 DKK (94 000 EUR)
Aia Jüdes, SE & FI, IS
- **FabCrafts,:** 400 000 DKK (53 700 EUR)
Impact Galaxy, SE & DK, FI, IS, NO
- **HUNGER:** 850 000 DKK (114 200 EUR)
Norske Kunsthåndverkere Midt-Norge, NO & FI, SE
- **APPLIED ART – REVIVAL:** 110 000 DKK (14 700 EUR)
Den Danske Keramikfabrik, DK & FI, NO, SE
- **Nordic music, arts and crafts:** 250 000 DKK (33 600 EUR)
Cederquist Harborg production, SE & DK, IS
- **Scandinavian Glass - starting all over:** 850 000 DKK (114 200 EUR)
Glasmuseet Ebeltoft, DK & FI, SE
- **Starting from scratch:** 390 000 DKK (52 400 EUR)
Sarah Schipschack, Polar Film Lab, NO & FI, IS

Project presentations:

https://www.nordiskkulturfond.org/projects/#Inspirational_projects

Press photos:

<https://www.nordiskkulturfond.org/en/press/>

The chair of the Board of the Nordic Culture Fund, Paavo Arhinmäki, was delighted with the outcome.

"I am pleased to note that the eight HANDMADE projects exhibit a degree of innovation that reflects the creative flair, conceptual depth and contemporary nature of the art and culture scenes in the Nordic Region.

The Region has always had proud design and production traditions. These have become an important part of the Nordic identity and culture.

Today the sector faces a different situation, a significant impact of digitisation and globalisation. Handmade art has also had a bit of an old-fashioned image in a sense and it is often the old design classics we know and value the most, also in the Nordic countries. But a trend has emerged for the various scenes to come up with distinctive new idioms and constellations.

This money will allow the eight projects to take a big leap and infuse their work with new and different international voices and perspectives. Collectively, the projects show Nordic handmade design in a new light. I want to thank Professor Christina Zetterlund and designer Mari Savio, who acted as HANDMADE expert advisors. I also want to wish the projects participants good luck with their work that starts now."

Background

HANDMADE is a Nordic Culture Fund programme to promote and stimulate handmade arts and crafts by encouraging new Nordic and international partnerships. By the deadline on 15 August 2016, at total of 39 applications had been submitted, far more than expected. Developing projects along with partners in other Nordic countries on a scale where the funding from the Culture Fund alone amounts to DKK 500,000 – 1,000,000 is a major undertaking.

The successful projects cover a wide spectrum of handmade design, from traditional crafts like glass and ceramics, to breakdance, music, film and cosplay. The applicants ranged from big institutions such as museums to small businesses and practitioners – or "makers", as many of them prefer to be called.

Professor Christina Zetterlund (University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Sweden) and designer Mari Savio, Finland, were the expert advisors.

"It's hugely exciting but also very challenging to be an advisor for HANDMADE. The applications were of a consistently high quality, which made the selection process extremely difficult. However, the successful projects reflect the breadth and dynamism of handmade design," *Christina Zetterlund said.*

The Nordic Culture Fund hopes that the eight HANDMADE projects will have a lasting and positive effect on the makers involved, the public and the makers of the future. The initiative is designed to encourage partnerships and networks and leave behind a legacy of widespread local, national and international awareness of, and focus on, the new image of handmade arts and crafts in the Nordic Region.

Contact the Nordic Cultural Fund

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FACTS

HANDMADE

HANDMADE is a three-year funding programme run by the Nordic Culture Fund, 2016-2018. It aims to promote and stimulate handicrafts and handmade design by encouraging new Nordic and international partnerships, and to help improve the visibility of a wide range of handmade art forms and idioms. HANDMADE is part of the Fund's endeavours to support innovative and dynamic artistic and cultural activity in the Nordic Region that is diverse, accessible and of high quality.

Funding 2016

The Fund had a deadline of 15 August 2016 for HANDMADE applications. A total of 39 projects applied, far more than expected. To accommodate this keen interest, an extra DKK 1 million was added to the pool, bringing it to a total of DKK 4 million. The eight projects to receive funding approach the theme from a range of different angles. On average, the eight projects received 88% of the amount they applied for, which is a high figure, and the grants from the Fund cover 48% of their total project budgets.

The projects are:

- Acoustically Active Augmented Instruments - Musical Instruments at the Interface of the Material and the Digital (link til pressemateriale om projektet)
Amount: DKK 450,000 (€ 60,400)
Project owner: Otso Lähdeoja, FI Partner countries: DK and NO
Otso Lähdeoja, otso.lahdeoja@gmail.com
 - Craft Rituals
Amount: DKK 700,000 (€ 94,000)
Project owner: Aia Judes, SWE Partner countries: FI and ICE
Aia Jüdes, aia@jgc.se
 - FabCrafts,
Amount: DKK 400,000 (€ 53,700)
Project owner: Impact Galaxy, SWE, Partner countries: DK, FI, ICE and NO
Zenna Fiscella, zenna.fiscella@gmail.com
- HUNGER
DKK 850,000 (€ 114 200)
Project owner: Norwegian Association for Arts and Crafts, Central Norway,
NO Partner countries: SWE and FI
Toril Redalen, trealden@hotmail.com
- APPLIED ART - REVIVAL
Amount: DKK 110,000 (€14 700)
Project owner: Den Danske Keramikfabrik DK Partner countries: FI, SWE and NO
Agnes Fries, mail@agnesfries.com
 - Nordic music, arts and crafts
Amount: DKK 250,000 (€ 33 600)
Project owner: Cederquist Harborg Production AB, SWE Partner countries: IS and DK
Anna Cederquist, anna.cederquist@gmail.com
 - Scandinavian Glass - starting all over
Amount: DKK 850,000 (€ 114 200)
Project owner: Ebeltoft Glass Museum, DK, Partner countries: FI and SWE
Dan Mølgaard, dan@glasmuseet.dk

- Starting from scratch
Amount: DKK390,000 (€ 52 400)
Project owner: Sarah Schipschack, Polar Film Lab, NO Partner countries:
FI and ICE
Sarah Schipschack, sarah@vitakuben.net

The Fund also approved a [OPSTART grant](#) for project development to one of the HANDMADE applicants:

- Nordic Cosplay Convention
Amount: DKK 25,000 (€ 3 300)
Project owner: Cosvision ry, Finland
Suvi Liukkonen, suvi@cosvision.fi

HANDMADE 2017 and 2018

The Nordic Culture Fund's strategic HANDMADE initiative continues in 2017 and 2018. One of the objectives is to generate a higher number of applications for general project funding from circles involved in handmade art and crafts. From 2017, HANDMADE will be part of the Fund's general funding programme, which had three deadlines for applications each year.

Nordic Culture Fund

The Fund contributes to positive artistic and cultural developments in the Nordic Region by promoting co-operation between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland. It does so by generating knowledge, building networks and providing financial support.

The Fund was established in 1966, based on an agreement between all of the Nordic countries. It currently has a budget of DKK 36 million, the majority of which is awarded in the form of grants to cultural projects in the Nordic Region and beyond. The money for this comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers' budget and is approved annually by the Nordic Council. The Fund provides grants on three levels: general project funding (three annual deadlines), START grants (applications all year round) and priority pools (specific criteria and deadlines).

<https://www.nordiskkulturfond.org/en/>