

# KUNSTENS RAMMER

Creating new opportunities for  
artistic development in Denmark



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# BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Why is it necessary to re-think the framework for Danish visual arts?



# Background and purpose

**The ‘Kunstens Rammer’ (Frameworks of Art) project focuses on how we may create better terms and conditions for artistic development for visual artists in Denmark – with a particular focus on creating new opportunities for realising artistic potential.**

In the autumn of 2016, the Bikuben Foundation launched a study aimed at identifying the challenges faced by Danish visual arts – and the potential for making improvements within the field. The Bikuben Foundation’s objective is to identify new ways of working with artistic development – and to create new opportunities for producing quality art in Denmark.

Unearthing a number of specific needs, the study points towards potential focus areas within the fields of art production, networking, knowledge sharing, and art presentation, dissemination and organisation. These themes are unfolded in a report called ‘Kunstens Rammer – nyskabelse af muligheder for kunstnerisk udvikling i Danmark’ (The Frameworks of Art – creating new opportunities for artistic development in Denmark).

The study is based on the Bikuben Foundation’s special focus on artistic development through the years – particularly from the lesson learnt from the one-year studio programme and counselling scheme that offers new graduates from the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts’ Schools of Visual Arts free access to a studio space in Fondenes Hus as well as tutorials and advice from an art consultant. This scheme has now been in operation for three years.

In 2017, the Bikuben Foundation invited selected artists, art institutions, foundations and other stakeholders and organisations on the art scene to a range of meetings where we shared the information and knowledge collected regarding the conditions for artistic development in Denmark right now. The stakeholders were also presented with the scenarios that had the greatest potential for being realised.

The objective of the Kunstens Rammer project is to:

- **identify the particular and general challenges of visual arts**
- **qualify initiatives and efforts made within the field of art**
- **bring together and involve a broad range of stakeholders within the field**
- **develop and communicate strategies, efforts and initiatives**

# Summary and recommendations

**The study's analyses point out three special effort areas and five selected initiatives that can contribute to creating better opportunities for artistic development among artists in Denmark.**

The analysis shows that long-term, interdisciplinary efforts are required in order to give Danish visual arts a boost. Such efforts should combine practical, hands-on initiatives with immediate, tangible effects and more long-term strategic efforts that take into account structural changes and shifts in values. In practical terms, the objective is to support artistic production, knowledge sharing and organisation – individually and collectively.

**The Kunstens Rammer projects points out three special effort areas that merit particular attention:**



## **PHYSICAL SETTINGS AND PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

The analysis demonstrates a need for studio and production facilities in Denmark. Development within the art scene can be greatly aided by offering or improving production facilities. The report recommends:

- creating dynamic and flexible studio and production facilities that enable artists to **share and co-create** – on a spontaneous, short-term basis and in the long term.
- that such physical settings should also incorporate social aspects and functions that **reach out to the wider world**, such as exhibition facilities or a café.
- creating opportunities for synergy, learning and mutual inspiration through the **involvement of stakeholders across different disciplines and by establishing links** to professional learning settings.



## **KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COLLABORATION**

The analysis points towards the importance of boosting residency schemes for Danish and international artists and curators and the importance of improving the presentation, communication and dissemination aspects of artistic endeavours. The report recommends:

- enhancing the exchange of knowledge and lessons learnt among artists through **new formats for collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing**.
- assigning **priority to international relations and collaboration** through exchange schemes, professionally ambitious development schemes and residency schemes.
- creating greater scope for professional development and education through offers of **supplementary education, professional career counselling and sparring**.



## **FINANCES AND ORGANISATION**

The analysis points to a need for cultivating new organisation formats and business models where artists and artistic competencies are brought into play in new ways. The report recommends:

- creating **greater openness about the requirements and criteria** applying to applications for grants and project funding, thereby establishing better application processes that applicants can learn from.
- exploring new tendencies within the field of entrepreneurship with a view to testing **new business and funding models** that will expand the scope of financial options available to artists.
- developing and testing formats that impose structure and **dogma for production and collaboration**.

