

Report of the IGBK Board and Office for the year 2024 to the IGBK Delegates Assembly in 2025

Introduction.....	1
Structure of the IGBK	2
visual artists diverse conditions (annual project 2024).....	3
IGBK service—consulting, networking and mapping of artist residencies.....	4
Information portal and helpdesk service touring artists.....	6
Project Kreativ-Transfer in 2024	9
Activities within the International Association of Art (IAA) and IAA Europe	10
Collaboration in the organization Culture Action Europe.....	12
Network On The Move (OTM) and its Mobility Infopoints working group.....	13
Membership in ResArtis	14
German Cultural Council and German Arts Council	15

Introduction

The Internationale Gesellschaft der bildenden Künste (IGBK) is a strong lobby for visual artists at international and national level. The IGBK is engaged in the field of international cultural cooperation and works to improve the international exchange of artists and the framework conditions for artistic work. It implements projects on cultural policy, provides services to assist artists in their international activities, and actively engages in international networks promoting the visual arts.

According to its statutes, the Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste (IGBK) unites the three leading German artists' organizations operating nationwide, all standing on equal footing. The IGBK thus represents more than 14,000 visual artists in Germany.



[Bundesverband Bildender
Künstlerinnen und Künstler \(BBK\)](#)



Deutscher
Künstlerbund e.V.

[Deutscher Künstlerbund](#)



[Verband der Gemeinschaften der
Künstlerinnen und
Kunstfördernden \(GEDOK\)](#)

Structure of the IGBK

The governing bodies of the IGBK are the Assembly of Delegates and the Executive Committee. The Assembly of Delegates is formed by equal numbers of six delegates from each of the three member associations. The ordinary Assembly of Delegates takes place once a year. The Executive Committee consists of one member of each of the IGBK member associations' boards. These three persons represent the organization jointly as chairpersons. In addition, two further representatives of each member association belong to the Executive Committee as assessors.

The Executive Committee is elected every three years by the IGBK Delegates Assembly, most recently in 2023.

The chairperson of the IGBK—re-elected at the 2023 Assembly of Delegates—are Marcel Noack (BBK, spokesperson for the IGBK Board), Christine Düwel (GEDOK) and María Linares (Deutscher Künstlerbund). The IGBK Board's assessors are Andreas Schmid and Moira Zoitl (both Deutscher Künstlerbund), Doris Weinberger and Ralf Homann (both BBK) and Iris Hoppe and Susanne Meier-Faust (both GEDOK).

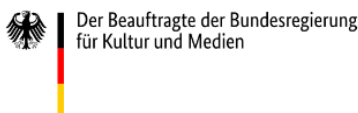
Four IGBK Board meetings were held in 2024, in February, June, October and in December. A delegates' assembly was equally organized in June 2024 digitally.

The IGBK office is located on Markgrafendamm in Berlin-Friedrichshain, where the successful office sharing with the Bundesverband Bildender Künstlerinnen und Künstler (BBK) continues and where the German Jazz Union and other project offices are also located on the same floor.

Thomas Weis held the position of IGBK managing director for over 25 years until the end of August 2024. In the fall of 2024, he was bid farewell with many thanks from members, delegates and employees. In September 2024, Constanze Brockmann succeeded him as managing director. Carolin Schulz joined the IGBK team as a new project manager in November 2024. Christine Heemsoth is employed by the IGBK as a project editor for the projects touring artists and International Artists Info Berlin (IAIB). In 2024, Anna Panagos and Vincent Brucker also joined the IGBK team and supported the office or worked on projects such as touring artists.

A [mission statement](#) is available on the IGBK website, as well as texts on the [structure](#), [profile](#) and [history](#) of the IGBK.

The IGBK and its projects are supported by



visual artists | diverse conditions (annual project 2024)



The concept of diversity is becoming increasingly relevant in democratic and pluralistic societies. However, the diversity of lifestyles, identities and cultures is not yet reflected in all areas of a society or in its institutional structures.

In 2024, the IGBK continued its "[visual artists | diverse conditions](#)" project, with a special focus on the framework conditions for artistic work in a European context with regard to diversity.

What impact do characteristics such as age, gender, origin/language and geographical location (or place of residence) have on the work of visual artists in addition to country-specific cultural policy, art policy and socio-political conditions? To what extent is the presence or absence of diversity structures in institutions, for example, noticeable in the work of artists?

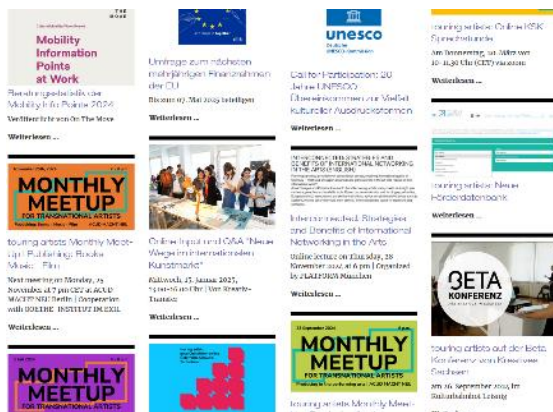
In May 2024, IGBK together with the Artists' Association of Sweden, and in partnership with IAA Europe and On The Move, hosted a [hybrid project conference](#). On 24 May around 30 experts from the visual arts—including representatives of national and European artists' associations, visual artists, experts and cultural politicians—came together digitally and on site in Berlin and Stockholm. In addition, approximately 100 further participants joined the event as online viewers. Round-table discussions and keynote speeches were held to discuss how diversity aspects can be given greater consideration and visibility in connection with the working conditions of artists in Europe. The conference was held in English.

Following on from this event, a comprehensive [project documentation](#) was published in PDF format in December 2024. It contains contributions from conference participants and from previous project events in 2023, covering topics such as "Associations and Structures", "Social Security and Pensions", "Funding and Working Spaces" and "European Cooperation and Scientific Perspective" with regard to aspects of diversity. In addition, concrete recommendations for action were formulated, which can serve as a basis for future initiatives and for defining requirements for the participating associations.

All public events held as part of the project in 2024 are documented on [the IGBK website with videos and accompanying material](#).

The project leaders of "visual artists | diverse conditions" were Christine Düwel, María Linares and Marcel Noack.

IGBK service—consulting, networking and mapping of artist residencies



The service work of IGBK facilitates access to information which is necessary for visual artists to work internationally. The international exchange of artists is promoted and barriers to mobility are dismantled. IGBK's service work for visual artists in 2024 included the following activities:

- Personal advice on funding opportunities for international projects, customs and transport issues and the provision of helpful contacts.
- Research and publication of information on national and international calls for proposals and competitions (an average of 23 new calls per month).
- Compilation and dissemination of information on relevant events, publications and other services in an international context - via the IGBK website (www.igbk.de), the IGBK [Facebook profile](#) and the regular [IGBK newsletter](#).
- Issuing the International Artist Card and the Customs Form of the International Association of Art (IAA) to professional visual artists. In 2024, approx. 1,000 artist ID cards and 10 customs forms were issued.

Since 2023, the IGBK has been providing information on artist-in-residence programs based in Germany (AiRs) with an [overview page and interactive map](#). This service is aimed both at visual artists from Germany and abroad and at the residency programs themselves. There are currently 110 institutions and programs listed; the data is continuously maintained and updated. In addition, IGBK (co-)organized two network meetings for operators of AiR-programs in 2024.



In January 2024, the second event of the "There is but local arts" project, entitled "[Was braucht's: Netzwerke, Kompetenzen, Möglichkeiten oder Ruhe?](#)", took place in Friedrichshafen. This get-together focused on the promotion of artists and residency programs in the cross-border Lake Constance region. Together with the Swiss partner association Visarte, the IGBK sponsored the project. Thematically, the event also tied in with the IGBK project [Übergänge/ Nachbarschaft](#) from 2019.



The German Commission for UNESCO (DUK) also responded favorably to the IGBK's activities on artist residencies in 2024. The mapping was included in the [Fourth German State Report on the Implementation of the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity](#) as an example of best practice.

In spring 2024, an issue of the BBK Bundesverband's magazine "kultur politik" was published on the topic of "[Cross-border exchange](#)", in which the IGBK contributed to the content and provided authors for articles.

Information portal and helpdesk service touring artists



Also in 2024, IGBK cooperated with the International Theatre Institute (ITI) Germany and the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland in the implementation of the [touring artists information portal and helpdesk service](#) for artists and creatives working internationally.

The "touring artists" information portal offers information on topics such as social security, taxes, visas/residence/access to the labor market, personal and property insurance, customs/transport and copyright law with regard to temporary mobility in an international context. The continuous updating of content was part of the work over the course of the year, including a.o. extensive updates to the module "[Basics of VAT](#)".

Among other things, two country-specific checklists were developed: "Working between Austria and Germany" (in cooperation with ArtMobilityAustria) and "Working in Switzerland" (in cooperation with KulturHub Switzerland). Work has begun on developing information on the topic of international work by disabled artists; the information will be available online from 2025.

Mobility funding is also an important topic for "touring artists". In December 2024, the completely revised mobility funding database was launched with over 450 funding programs, mainly in Germany, that support the international mobility of artists and cultural actors.

The screenshot shows the TOURING ARTISTS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Kontakt, Veranstaltungen, Guide, Infoportal, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "FÖRDERDATENBANK TA" (Funding Database TA). This section contains a list of funding programs with filters for "Förderart" (Type of funding) and "Sparte" (Category). The "Förderart" filter is set to "Bitte wählen" (Please select), and the "Sparte" filter is set to "Bitte wählen" (Please select). The list of funding programs includes:

- DACHVERBAND FREIE DARSTELLENDE KÜNSTE HAMBURG (DFDK)**: DIFFUSIONSFÖRDERUNG. Die Wiederaufnahme- und Gastpostenförderung, die der Dachverband Freie darstellende Künste Hamburg (DFDK) seit 2018 im Auftrag der Behörde für Kultur und Medien vergibt, richtet sich an alle freien darstellenden Künstlerinnen in Hamburg, die bestehende Produktionen noch einmal in Hamburg oder anderswo zeigen möchten. Das erklärte Ziel ist es, die
- DIE BEAUFTRAGTE DER BUNDESREGIERUNG FÜR KULTUR UND MEDIEN (BKM)**: FÖRDERUNG FÜR DEUTSCH-POLNISCHE KUNST- UND KULTURPROJEKTE. Wenn Sie ein deutsch-polnisches oder polnisches Kunst- oder Kulturprojekt durchführen, können Sie unter bestimmten Voraussetzungen eine Förderung beantragen.
- GWAERTLER GRANT**: Der Gwaertler Grant fördert künstlerische Arbeiten, die künstlerische Veränderungen in dem von ihnen verhandelten Kontext bewirken wollen. Die Förderung richtet sich ausdrücklich an Künstler:innen aus allen künstlerischen Bereichen, die Unterstützung zu Beginn eines Projektes bei folgenden möglichen Aktivitäten benötigen.

Wars and reprisals contribute to artists having to leave their home countries for political reasons. The IGBK and the "touring artists" project team would like to contribute to supporting artists, creatives and event organizers by providing information and individual advice. The [International Artists Info Berlin](#) (IAIB) project, which was launched in 2018 and is linked to "touring artists", was continued throughout 2024. "IAIB" is aimed at international artists, creatives and cultural professionals who have had to leave their home countries due to the political situation there and have now arrived in Germany. The specific information provided offers orientation in the German cultural landscape and especially in the Berlin cultural scene.

Within the framework of "touring artists" and "IAIB", artists and cultural professionals have the opportunity to take advantage of [free individual counseling](#) across all disciplines. The main areas of enquiry are taxes, visas/residency and social security. More than 1,340 consultations were held in 2024: around 26% were for mobility from Germany to abroad and around 74% for mobility from abroad to Germany, around 23% of inquiries came from the visual arts (music 30%, theater 19%, dance 16%, etc.).

INTERCONNECTED: STRATEGIES AND BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING IN THE ARTS (ENGLISH)

Planning a project, a residency or an exhibition abroad, receiving international guests in Germany – what kind of support do artists and professionals in the art field receive in their international work?

Anna Panagos and Christine Heemsoth from the touring artists team provide an insight into various approaches and available tools: Resources on residencies and funding opportunities, European artists' associations and service institutions, advice on administrative issues such as customs, income tax or entry and work permits. There will also be space for questions and exchange.

In cooperation with partner organizations and cultural institutions (artist associations, local municipalities, artist-in-residence programs, universities etc.), "touring artists" 2024 was represented at almost 70 events with presentations and info sessions and internal training courses (see also the "touring artists" Facebook profile). For example, the IGBK and "touring artists" organized the event "[How to Artist-in-Residence](#)" in cooperation with the Landesbüro für Bildende Kunst NRW; in November, the online session "[Interconnected: Strategies and Benefits of International Networking in the Arts](#)" was held at the invitation of PLATFORM Munich, in cooperation with the BBK München & Oberbayern.

Another important aspect of the events is the exchange of experiences with other artists and creatives. In the "Get started!" series of events organized with Kreativ-Kultur-Berlin, seven get-togethers were held, aimed at artists and creatives who had recently moved to Berlin (however events were also available nationwide as online format).

In 2024, seven networking meetings of the "Monthly Meet-Up" (MMU) series took place as part of "IAIB", in cooperation with Goethe-Institut im Exil. These meetings offer the opportunity to get to know representatives of Berlin art institutions, other artists, and their work. The program is primarily aimed at artists from abroad who are (newly) arriving in the city. The "MMUs" address cross-disciplinary topics, such as work in public spaces or questions about the artists' social security fund.



In the European context, "touring artists" is a member of the [Mobility Information Points working group in On The Move](#). Until spring 2024, collaboration in this group was coordinated by the "touring artists" team (see the information on On The Move).



The "touring artists" project has been funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) since 2013. The "IAIB" project is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion of the State of Berlin as part of the "[Weltoffenes Berlin](#)" program.

Project Kreativ-Transfer in 2024



KREATIV-TRANSFER
kreativ-transfer.de

Since 2019, the Kreativ-Transfer program has supported actors in the fields of performing arts, visual arts and games in establishing and expanding their international network and improving their visibility. The program supports the international exchange and the professionalization of the actors.

In the visual arts field, Kreativ-Transfer offers both operators of project spaces/ producers' galleries and gallery owners the opportunity to apply for travel grants to visit fairs and festivals. This is intended to enable those receiving funding to present their work, make new contacts and find co-producers. Furthermore, strategic projects for networking and professionalization can be funded.

Accompanying online workshops, information events and informal get-togethers are offered. These events are aimed at those receiving funding as well as other interested parties. They serve the exchange of know-how and experience among colleagues as well as the transfer of knowledge by invited experts. The program is organized and administered by the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland (DTD). The DTD cooperates with the IGBK in funding the project spaces and producers' galleries.

Kreativ-Transfer was also funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) in the third project phase in 2024. The last round of calls for proposals for the visual arts/project spaces and producer galleries took place at the end of 2023, allowing further funding to be awarded for international travel projects and strategic networking measures for the period from March to December 2024. As in previous rounds, the jury consisted of Selda Asal (Projektraum Apartment Project Berlin), Anne Schülke (NKR - NEUER KUNSTRAUM Düsseldorf) and Marcel Noack from the IGBK board.

In addition, the IGBK was also involved in various further events of the program - for example, in a digital workshop with a focus on "Transport and Customs" in May 2024 and in an input and Q&A session on the topic of "International Taxes" in November 2024.

Activities within the International Association of Art (IAA) and IAA Europe



The IAA Europe represents the European region within the International Association of Art (IAA). The IAA is the world's largest international non-governmental association of visual artists. In 2002, the IAA Europe was constituted with 45 national committees as an independent European umbrella organization with its own statutes and board, in which representatives of the IGBK have been working for many years.

Teemu Mäki from the Artists' Association of Finland has been President of the IAA Europe since September 2022 and the IAA Europe office is located at the Finnish National Committee in Helsinki. In the same year, Marcel Noack was also elected to the Executive Committee of the IAA Europe as a delegate of IGBK.

Marcel Noack also sits on the executive committee of the umbrella organization IAA/AIAP. In addition to digital meetings, the IAA/AIAP board also held a face-to-face meeting in February 2024 in Seoul, South Korea, the seat of the organization's current president.

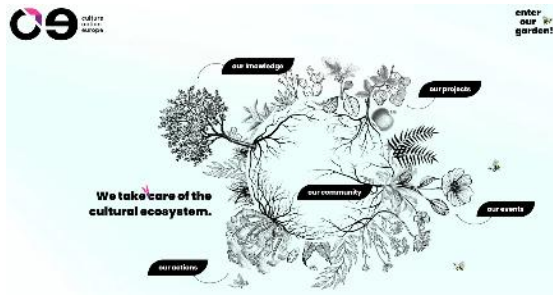
In the run-up to the European elections, IAA Europe published an updated [strategy paper](#) in the summer of 2024. The focus was on the role of art and culture in society, fair remuneration models for artists, and on copyright laws to protect the material and intellectual rights of artists.

With the symposium "[Art and War](#)" on 17 October 2024 in Vilnius, IAA Europe focused on the topic of artistic work in times of war. The event was organized in cooperation with the Lithuanian Association of Art Creators and the Lithuanian Artists' Association and brought together more than 40 artists' associations from all over Europe. The day before, the IAA Europe General Assembly also took place in Vilnius. Marcel Noack (spokesperson for the IGBK and member of the IAA Europe Executive Committee) and Constanze Brockmann (IGBK office) participated on behalf of the IGBK.



Photo: Lukas Stanionis

Collaboration in the organization Culture Action Europe



Through the European Secretariat of German Culture NGOs (EUSEC), the IGBK, together with the ITI Germany, has been active in the organization [Culture Action Europe \(CAE\)](#) for many years. CAE, based in Brussels, is the largest interdisciplinary forum for the non-governmental cultural sector in Europe. With around 200 member organizations from Western and Eastern European countries, CAE acts as a mediator for decision-makers in European politics and administration when it comes to the interests of artists and cultural professionals.

In March 2024, IGBK and ITI, as part of EUSEC, organized a hub meeting for members of Culture Action Europe based Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The focus was on an exchange of views on the upcoming European Parliament elections and strategically relevant cultural policy issues in the context of the elections.

In spring 2024, the IGBK office also created so-called election benchmarks, which were sent to various parties in the run-up to the European elections. The responses received can be [viewed online](#).

The IGBK participated in the [survey on the status and working conditions of artists](#), which was conducted in January 2024 by CAE in cooperation with Panteia. IGBK contributed insights from the German artists association landscape to the European discussion.

At the end of May 2024, Christine Heemsoth participated on behalf of the EUSEC and the IGBK in the [annual conference "Beyond the Obvious"](#), organized by Culture Action Europe in Malmö, Sweden. The conference theme "United by Future Places" highlighted cities as spaces of collective life, as open places of participation and reflection. Experts from the cultural and social sectors discussed the role of culture as a unifying and trend-setting element.

In June 2024, Culture Action Europe also held its [digital general assembly](#), which included elections for the CAE board. Iris Hoppe took part in the meeting on behalf EUSEC and the board of IGBK.

Network On The Move (OTM) and its Mobility Infopoints working group

ON THE MOVE

The network [On the Move](#) currently has 79 member organizations and a number of individual members from a total of 29 countries. Members are organizations that support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals — through funding programs, projects, information or advice. The IGBK is also a member of this network.

The OTM website contains a list of over 60 national and regional, continuously updated Funding Guides, which OTM has developed over the years together with partners, as well as a daily updated overview of open calls for proposals in the field of international mobility. Projects and publications are presented on the site for artists and creatives working internationally. The monthly, multilingual [OTM newsletter](#) is translated into German by the IGBK.

Important for the IGBK and for the "touring artists" project is the working group of the [Mobility Information Points](#) (MIPs) in OTM, which was jointly coordinated by the IGBK, ITI Germany, and the German Dance Association as project partners until spring 2024. Throughout 2024, meetings of the working group took place every six weeks, two of them in presence, in Caernarfon, Wales, as part of OTM's [2024 Cultural Mobility Forum](#), and in Brussels.

Following the successful implementation of the "[MIP Amplifier](#)" project in 2023, a second data report on the work of the MIPs was presented: [Mobility Information Points at Work 2024](#). The report refers to the MIPs' consultations (individual consultations with artists and cultural actors, in person or online) and events (usually workshops on specific topics related to cultural mobility). It is based on data collected throughout 2024 by nine MIPs in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Membership in ResArtis



The IGBK is an associate member of [ResArtis](#), the international network for artist-in-residence-program. This membership supports the further development and maintenance of the information section on residencies on the IGBK website. At the same time, it enables the IGBK to make the findings from the "[onAIRISM](#)" projects as well as feedback and needs that were gathered as part of the residency mapping, visible in a global context and to discuss them within the ResArtis network.

In November 2024, the IGBK, in cooperation with ResArtis, organized a [digital networking meeting of residency operators in Germany](#). The aim was to promote intraregional exchange between the various institutions and to jointly identify relevant topics and needs. The format was very well received, and further follow-up meetings are planned for 2025.

German Cultural Council and German Arts Council



The [German Arts Council](#) is an association of currently 26 nationally organized associations of visual artists, art mediators, the art trade and art exploiters. Together, they represent over 300,000 art professionals and more than 1,600 institutions. The Art Council represents the interests of art professionals and aims in particular to give the visual arts the recognition they deserve and to help shape the cultural policy framework. The German Arts Council is the German Cultural Council's section for the visual arts.

Representatives of the member associations organized within the German Arts Council — including the IGBK — contribute their expertise to all committees and temporary working groups of the Cultural Council. Christine Düwel from the IGBK board is the official representative of the IGBK in the German Arts Council.

The IGBK contributes its expertise both to the Art Council itself and - until the end of 2024 - to its Europe/International Committee (remark: the division and naming of the committees has lately been changed). The German Art Council met in April and September 2024. In September, the general assembly of the German Cultural Council also took place.

In February 2024, Constanze Brockmann from the IGBK office took part in the Cultural Council's Tax Working Group. This group dealt with the annual tax law in preparation and formulated a statement highlighting the reduced VAT rate in the art trade and tax issues relating to artists who work in Germany but live abroad.