

**PRESS RELEASE:****Funding from the Danish Art Foundation to Viborg Kunsthall's residency programme Riddergade AIR**

Since 2015, Viborg Kunsthall has run the highly functioning residency program *Riddergade AIR*, which so far has been visited by more than 30 Danish and international artists. Now the program has received funding from the Danish Art Foundation, which makes an expansion of the activities possible in 2020.

Head of Exhibitions Bodil Johanne Monrad says: *We are happy to continue to offer Danish and international visual artists a residency in Viborg - now with and even bigger focus on networking and contemplation. We are extremely excited that the Danish Art Foundation has chosen to fund our residency, which plays a crucial part in the expansion and upgrading of the program, as well as being able to offer the artists a contribution to travel expenses and a fee.*

The idea behind *Riddergade AIR* is that the artists during their stay can meet new people, create a network, develop their work and become a sort of ambassador for, not just Viborg, but Denmark in general and Danish contemporary art. During their stay the individual artist can work with a multitude of people in the extensive network of artists, art institutions, professionals and relevant collaborators who are connected to Viborg Kunsthall. Furthermore, *Riddergade AIR* has a co-hosting team consisting of involved volunteers, who help with the practical things such as arranging trips, dinners, etc.

Lisette Vind Ebbesen, Chairman of Committee for Visual Arts Project Funding says: *In the committee we are excited to follow along with Riddergade AIR. The residency program has existed for several years, and with the new funding the groundwork for going through with even more networking activities has been made. The purpose is to secure the exchange between international and Danish contemporary art, and we are happy that Viborg Kunsthall has taken on that part.*

With the funding from the Danish Art Foundation there will be offered four residencies, each with a three-month duration for the artists, and an application must be sent off before November 15th 2019 to be considered. The applicants will be judged by a jury of art professionals:

- Judith Schwarzbart, Rector at Det Jyske Kunstakademi
- Kirstine Schiess Højmoose, Head of Aarhus Center for Visual Art
- René Schmidt, Representative from Kunstforum Viborg and BKF, member of Akadimirådet
- Bodil Johanne Monrad, Head of Exhibitions at Viborg Kunsthall

Facts:

Riddergade AIR is an artistic platform in the heart of Jutland, where visual artists can develop and immerse themselves in their artistic work and strengthen their network. With *Riddergade AIR* we offer the artists excellent studio facilities, assistance in different tasks of practical and artistic relevance, as well as offer access to a broad local, national, and international network. The program creates connections between the residents and Danish artists and facilitates new possibilities to develop the Danish contemporary art scene internationally.

Application deadline for *Riddergade AIR* 2020 is November 15th 2019.

Read more about the residency program and find the application form at viborgkunsthall.dk