

21.02.2022

STATEMENT FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF ZACHĘTA

In response to the publication of articles in *Gazeta Wyborcza* *Pierwszy blamaż nowego szefa Zachęty. Zrezygnował z 740 tys. zł i popsuł relacje z Norwegami* [New Head of Zachęta Blunders, Loses PLN 740 Thousand and Spoils Relations with Norwegian Peers], published 17 February 2022 (by Emilia Dłużewska) and *Blamaż Janowskiego* [Janowski's Blunder], published 21 February 2022 (by Emilia Dłużewska), the management of Zachęta states the following:

- In 2021, despite the committee's high evaluation of 29 June 2021, by a decision of 18 August 2021, **Zachęta did not receive project funding** for the *Hege Lønne* exhibition. The project was placed on the reserve list for the Norwegian Funds.
- Therefore, the 2022 Zachęta budget approved by then Director Hanna Wróblewska assumed that **Zachęta would not receive funding from the Norwegian Funds** for the realisation of the *Hege Lønne* exhibition in 2022, including activities organised with the Trondheim Museum.
- When planning the budget for 2022, Zachęta assumed that **it would not be possible to recoup the costs** of the *Hege Lønne* exhibition incurred in 2021 even if the project was granted funds from the reserve list of Norwegian Funds. This is due to the operational rules of the Norwegian Funds, as confirmed by the letter from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of 30 December 2021.
- Zachęta assumed the possibility that the need to cover (even if only temporarily) the costs of activities organised with the Trondheim Museum with its own funds could jeopardise the liquidity of the institution. For this reason, it was clear that failure to obtain or late obtaining of Norwegian funds could lead to: (i) the cancellation of the **overseas activities of the Hege Lønne exhibition** or (ii) the **cancellation of elements of Zachęta's main programme for 2022**.

The full and uninterrupted implementation of Zachęta's 2022 programme, adopted by then Director Hanna Wróblewska, therefore required the abandonment of funding for foreign activities related to the *Hege Lønne* exhibition. In order to maintain good, partnership relations with the museum in Trondheim, Zachęta covered the costs of transporting the exhibition to Norway.

Dr Janusz Janowski – Director of Zachęta – National Gallery of Art

Magdalena Rosińska – Chief Accountant of Zachęta – National Gallery of Art

