

Dear Mie Berg Simonsen:

Thank you for sending me your report on the state of national archive for video art.

I should have responded earlier but I needed the time to form an opinion. I have been discussing the matter continuously with my colleagues and artist friends. It was important for me to find out about other views and opinions.

I read your report about the video archives, and I wish to congratulate you on a well-done job.

I found your report very informed and up to date. You have gathered information from a variety of sources, both inside and outside of Norway. You have made suggestions based on the Norwegian examples that are already existing and functioning well.

I find your report inclusive of the important concerns surrounding the issue. I see that you have contacted many artists and you have heard their concerns and ideas.

Your report addresses all the aspects that I could personally think about in relation to the video archives, and it does make well thought out solutions and suggestions.

The core of dilemma as you have mentioned in the report is the question on the definition of video art itself. Such dilemmas may not have clear and certain solutions.

We can only produce subjective, relative and temporary answers. But I am positive that your proposed committee for selecting the works will do its best to find it.

My only addition to your suggestions is that when it comes to the actual location of the video archives, it does not necessarily have to be placed inside another institution. The video archives could (and perhaps it should) be an independent institution with its own distinctive physical and digital identity.

I wish you all the best,
Farhad Kalantary.