

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref.: TK/GH/GJ/60bis

Paris, 5 June 2019

Ms Claudia ANDRIEU
Head Legal Affairs
PICASSO ADMINISTRATION
8 rue Volney
75002 Paris -France
candrieu@picasso.fr

Subject: The Y-Block in Oslo, Norway: Demolition/ Dismantling of Picasso Art Works at the Government Buildings

Dear Ms Claudia ANDRIEU

It has come to ICOMOS' attention that the Picasso Administration/Succession Picasso has issued a statement accepting the dismantling of the two Picasso works that are integrated in the Y-block of the Government Quarter in Oslo, Norway.

We assume your acceptance is based on the presupposition that the art works would otherwise be destroyed together with the building.

We are therefore writing to you to draw your urgent attention to the fact that the situation has recently changed. In fact, the Planning and Building Authorities of Oslo have only given permission for the demolition of the North wing of the Y-block, which does not contain any Picasso art works. The reasoning behind this change is partly based on the issue of sustainability, and partly on the significance of the Picasso art works and how the totality of the works of art are integrated into the building itself.

We therefore wish to urge you to reconsider your statement based on this new information. ICOMOS believes that the acceptance of the dismantling of the art works by the Picasso Administration/Succession Picasso will weaken the cause of the Y-block as a whole. As time is of essence, we kindly urge you to react as soon as possible.

ICOMOS, and in particular our Norwegian National Committee and our International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage, have been vigorously campaigning since 2016 to prevent the demolition of the Y-Block and ensure the safeguarding of the Picasso art works in their original place and setting – see <https://www.icomos.org/en/get-involved/inform-us/heritage-alert/current-alerts/7940-red-banner-factory-st-petersburg-russia-open-letter-3>

Attached please find the most recent letter we sent to the Norwegian and Oslo authorities in January 2019.

ICOMOS is at your full disposal to further explain why we think it is urgent that the Picasso Administration/Succession Picasso withdraw its acceptance of the dismantling of the Picasso art works so as to ensure the safeguarding of the Y-Block as a whole – and hope that you will accept our request.

Yours sincerely,



Toshiyuki Kono
President of ICOMOS



Thomas Gunny Harboe
President of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Twentieth Century Heritage (ISC20C)