



*association internationale des critiques d'art
international association of art critics
asociacion internacional de criticos de arte
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INFORMATION LETTER - MAY 1983 HELSINKI

The 35th General Assembly and the XVth Congress took place in Helsinki and Tampere from May 26th to June 1, 1983 thanks to the initiative of the Finnish section and its president, Jaakko Lintinen. The theme for congress work was :
" Information on art - bridge or barrier between cultures ".

At the opening of the first session, Gustav Bjorkstrand, minister of education, addressed the greetings of the Finnish government to the members of AICA with the wish that the discussions would lead to better intercultural communication. Thanking the minister for his welcome address, president Haulica characterized the theme as tangible proof of the fertile diversity of AICA, which expects multiplication of exchanges within an open international perspective. " Unesco encourages us in this direction, he added, in order to put in common diverse experiences so as to give them a larger dimension. It is towards a similar goal we must direct these bridges thrown between cultures which we are going to discuss and which we must build together. " Then he congratulated the organisers of this meeting, Jaakko Lintinen, Erik Kruskopf, Markku Valkonen and Marja Haapio to which several ministries, municipalities, institutions and museums lent their support. In the name of the director general of Unesco, Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, Miss Madeleine Gobeil, chief of artistic creation in the cultural development division, pointed out the excellence of the rapport existing between Unesco and AICA. She encouraged us to develop our geographic extension and to participate even more actively in the programme of the organisation, because " AICA must understand how much its works are connected to Unesco ". In his response president Haulica thanked Madeleine Gobeil who, " by her tenacious and valiant action has found remarkable resources of initiative to transform our work ".

About 150 delegates and guests responded to the Finnish invitation : 25 countries being represented, or 20 European countries, 2 North American countries, 2 Latin American countries and 1 Arab country. We notice and draw your particular attention to a strong nordic participation and, for the first time, the presence of Iceland. Being excused : Wladislawa Jaworska (Poland) honorary president, Palma Bucarelli (Italy), Georges Boudaille (France), René Micha (Belgium) and Pierre Restany (France) vice presidents ; Harry-Paul Aletrino (Netherlands), Florent Bex (Belgium), Boris Petkovski (Yugoslavia), Jiri Setik (Czechoslovakia), Dorothy Walker (Ireland), and the Polish section. The presence of AIAP in Finland, itself holding a congress, provides the occasion to initiate a dialogue (inter-NGO) according to the wishes of Unesco.

for Art and Environment, mentioned the publication, by a Sovietic magazine, of the last symposium held in September 1982 in Moscou and Tachkent on the theme : " Popular art in the contemporary village ".

Head of the AICARC project, subsidized by Unesco, Hans-Jorg Heusser distributed, as he had promised to do at Sophia-Antipolis en 1982, the AICARC-Bulletin in its new form. Henceforth this publication will be centered around the themes of our congresses, e. g., for this first number, on the problems of artistic documentation in the nordic countries. Renewed both in its content and its presentation, the magazine suffers financial difficulties due to inadequate distribution which has been debated at length. Still, René Berger clearly indicated that AICARC was one of the channels by which he was able to obtain, when he was president, the first subsidy from Unesco. This is why, because of mutual interest, it must not be considered and justified only from a profitable point of view. President Haulica warmly thanked Hans Jorg Heusser for the quality of the work he has accomplished and urged him to continue his mission.

At this point the Board of Directors examined several documents transmitted by AIAP within the framework of its congress : two projects for AIAP/AICA recommendation bearing on the perspective of collaboration, a message of the 6th congress of the artists of the SSSR to the artists of the world, and an anti-nuclear declaration from the artists of Japan. The board decided to inform the General Assembly.

Bringing up the question of future assemblies president Haulica announced that the exceptional congress in Caracas will be held from the 18 to the 26th of next September on the theme " Perspective of Latin American art : regional sources and international impact ". Upon her arrival Belgica Rodriguez will announce the programme. For that which concerns the year 1984/1985 the president gave the status of two propositions, the one of the Provincial administration of Caserta, which implies the participation of the Italian section ; the other that of Greece, with the support of Madam Melina Mercouri, minister of culture. In the name of the Greek section, Marina Lambraki-Plaka suggested for theme : " The Greek world and contemporary art ". The Board of Directors ratified by a unanimous vote the principle of these two invitations. Our honorary president René Berger, anxious for coming years, lunched an appeal to the sections present that they take the initiative for future meetings. The Soviet Union renewed its intention to invite us in the coming years.

Among diverse questions, Marina Lambraki-Plaka read, in the name of the Greek section, a " Motion for the return of Parthénon sculptures. After discussion the Board of Directors decided unanimously to submit this motion for the approbation of the general assembly, before addressing to the intergovernmental committee for the return of cultural properties to their country of origin or their restitution in case of illegal appropriation with the influence of Unesco (appendix 1). Then president Haulica recalled that a letter from our Polish colleagues, received the day after our general assembly of 1982, but published in our information letter, gave us the reasons for which they could not meet in their country or participate in our international assemblies. Since then we have received other alarming testimony concerning more specially the arrest of Zbigniew Makarevitch.

of 31.999 US \$ and are therefore closed on a credit of 13.177 US \$... With respect to predictions for 1982 the differences in excess are largely due to increases in expenses for the general secretariat which increased in one year more than 6.000 US \$. This increase is attributable to all the items but above all to fees, salaries and social charges, PTT charges, rent, general supplies... the subsidies granted by UNESCO remain at 17.700 US \$ including AICARC. In comparison to the amount received from memberships (11.321 US \$, this subsidy remains strongly superior and therefore indispensable to the operation of AICA. Must it be repeated that a number of sections pay almost no dues. For 1982 the following sections paid dues to the general treasurer : FGR, GDR, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Ireland, Israël, Italy, Japon, Luxembourg, Mexique, Norway, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, SSSR, Uruguay, or 29 sections which is largely insufficient ". The financial report was unanimously approved. The account inspectors Valentina Anker and Ullrich Kuhirt of the financial control commission gave quietus to the general treasurer.

In the general secretariat's activity report Raoul-Jean Moulin recalled that " we have responded to the inquiry from Unesco in view of its septennial report on the NGOs. The principal questions concern our efforts of geographical extension, as well as our initiative to support the action of Unesco. We have also participated in a reunion between the NGOs and the general secretaries of the national commissions for Unesco, in the hope of improving cooperation between these commissions and our own sections which could enlarge even more the international implantation of AICA. With the help of Unesco, AICA and the Association of Southeast European studies have organised a symposium in Bucarest in December in 1982 on " The origins of modern art in the southeast of Europe ". This regional initiative reunited the participation of the following countries : FGR, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hongria, Roumania, Turquie, Yougoslavie. Still with Unesco support another symposium is being prepared for December 1983 in Lisbon in the Gulbenkian foundation on " The situation of art in contemporary society ", from three axes of research : " Functions and destiny of art today ; the work of art in museum and outside the museum ; circulation of works : hegemony and marginalisation ".

" Anxious to develop our geocultural field our office has supported and encouraged the combined actions of the nordic sections to arrive in founding the AICA in Iceland. The opportunity of this congress in Finland allows us to welcome Gudborg Kristjansdottir and through her salute the future Icelandic section of which the candidature is submitted for the approbation of the general assembly and the Board of Directors. In the perspective that we can open increasingly towards other countries, Unesco intends to contribute to the enlargement of our Latin American representation by underwriting the trip and the stay of the delegates from Bolivia, Cuba, Aquador and Nicaragua for our next congress in Caracas. One of the points of the order of the day will be given up to the encouraging in Latin America of the Unesco project concerning the production of a collection of slides on the art of the years 1960-1980, which takes into account the specific character of the different geocultural regions ". Raoul-Jean Moulin ended his report with the

In view of future sumposia René Berger observed that we have a tendency to consider the theme of the environment as stable or sedentary, while we should envisage it in its mobile dimension, ephemeral : e.g., analyse the environment of the autoroutes, airports and urban architecture which is an abstract not only of habitat but also of transit. In this perspective president Haulica, recalling the relation established by Hans L.C. Jaffé between " space lived and space built ", advanced the idea of a " scenography of the street ".

Reporter of the project of documentation on contemporary art which Unesco supports, Hans-Jorg Heusser presented the first number of the new format AICARC Bulletin, which will be tied henceforth to the theme and countries of our congresses. Number 1 concerns the nordic countries ; number 2, in preparation concerns Latin America. Hans-Jorg Heusser stressed the necessity to reinforce distribution of the publication and the increase of subscriptions (AICARC Bulletin, Swiss Institute for Art, Waldmannstrasse 6/8, CH-80001 Zürich, Suisse. Price per number 6 F Swiss, yearly subscription 12 F Swiss). On the subject of the AICA review, the president announced that the Herne publishers have a study for a six-monthly-publication of 200 pages, including 16 pages of reproductions which comes to 85.552 for 3000 copies. They ask that the presidents of the national sections act to subscribe a certain number of their members. President Haulica would like for each section to answer rapidly on this question. Estimating that the Herne proposition could lead us towards a concrete solution he requested that the general assembly give him a mandate to continue to follow up the operations in progress which was granted unanimously less one abstention.

For Art of the image/Image of art, Jacques Leenhardt spoke of the collaboration between critics and professionals of televised communication, divergence of method and the problem of writing confronted today with the usage of new media.

In the name of Georges Boudaille, Valerie Brière read the report of the commission on the grand international exhibitions for which the work programme can receive help from Unesco. On 29 manifestations biennial or triennial identified, 18 have responded to a general questionnaire having several types of questions as to their identity, operation, impact, national, international or regional, their regulations and catalogue. This documentary material is being studied and will be completed later. Among other conclusions the commission finds " the under-representation of the larger part of the third world countries : a whole continent, Africa, finds itself practically isolated ". The commission decided to analyse the reasons for this situation. Towards the goal of development of the cultural content of the biennials and triennials president Haulica encouraged the commission " to go further than the mechanisms of fashion and the market and not to follow the only too predictable highways of art ".

At the opening of the third seance of the general assembly, Gertrud Sutton communicated the list of new members accepted after study of their dossier by the secretariat commission.

FGR : Ernst Busche, Walter Grasskamp, Ingrid Rein, Hans-Peter Riese, Irma Schagheck.

among the assembly. Approved by the bureau, René Berger noted three conditions of the article : 1° the statutes of the national sections must correspond to the AICA statutes ; 2° a national section may not decide to transfer certain of its members to the free section, which takes away from the responsibility of the president of AICA ; 3° Society members belong by right AICA, what ever the rapport they enjoy with their own section. The secretary general added that he maintains close contacts with several members of the Czechoslovak section.

Finally, the general assembly proceeded with the elections to vice president and Board of Directors. The voting, which was presided over by Dan Haulica, was carried out nominally. The counting was effected by Reinilde Hammacher, Sophia Kazazis, Fernando Pernes, Belgica Rodriguez. On the first vote Jaakko Lintinen (Finland) was elected to the vice presidency with 40 votes ; on the second vote elected to the vice presidency were : Andrée Paradis (Canada) 22 votes ; Mario Gonçalves (Portugal) 23 votes ; Pierre Rouve (United Kingdom) and George Jappe (FRG) 22 votes ; Maria José Corominas (Spain) 21 votes ; Hermann Raum (GDR), Slava Sveratova (Ireland), Ryszard Stanislawki (Poland) and Michèle Cone (USA) 16 votes.

President Haulica requested of the general assembly that in his absence a delegation of power for the committees be accorded to the secretary general Raoul-Jean Moulin which was accepted unanimously.

CONGRESS

Prepared and organised under the direction of president Jaakko Lintinen, in collaboration with Erik Kruskoopf, Markku Valkonen, the works of the WWIth congress of AICA developed around two principal themes. The first theme, " The critique and cultural identity ", under successive chairmanship of Dan Haulica and Sven Sandström (Sweden), assembled the following papers : " Nationality and art " by Peter Schjeldahl (USA), "The national elements in international art" by Ian Vorres (Greece), "Report on the project of the Council of Europe : the images of our identity" by René Berger (Switzerland), " The documentation of modern and contemporary art and artistic creation as a social fact " by Hans-Jorg Heusser (Switzerland), as well as the interventions of Goran Schildt (Finland), Markku Valkonen (Finland), Kari Jylha (Finland), Hermann Raum (GDR), among others. The second theme, "Information of art", chaired by Georg Jappe (FRG) was notably treated by Pierre Rouve (United Kingdom), Achille Bonito Oliva (Italy), Jacques Meuris (Belgium), Mats B. (Sweden), Slavka Sverakova (Ireland).

As for the encounter AICA/AIAP, it took place the 31st of May in the Finlandia palace. It was less a dialogue than a confrontation, an exchange of ideas and experiences between members of the two NGOs on the double problem of "The cultural identity, art and the critique". Chaired alternatively by Bodil Kaalund for AIAP and Dan Haulica for AICA, the discussion nevertheless set off to advantage the different points of view, on the other side many contradictions and oppositions. But "It is the proper function of art to raise questions", reminded president Haulica, because, "art is a dimension essential of research" and that, "cultural identity can not conceive without a dialectic of multiples".



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MOTION
FOR THE RETURN OF PARTHENON MARBLES

1. Recognizing the importance of the Parthenon, monument which represents the highest degree of values of the Greek civilization,
2. Underlining that the Greek people have always recognized in this monument an irreplaceable symbol of their cultural and national identity,
3. Considering that a temple such as the Parthenon only achieves its full esthetic and symbolic value, in its integrality and wishing that the monument regains this, within the limits of possibility, by the restitution of the sculptures and fragments which were taken from it and which are found actually for the most part in the British museum,
4. Recalling that the sculptures and missing parts were removed during a time when the Greek people, deprived of political independence, were not able to defend them,
5. Being given that the facts exposed above correspond to conditions previously established by the intergovernmental committee for the promotion of the return of cultural heritage to their country of origin, created by Unesco in 1978,

Within the framework of its 16th International Congress and its 35th General Assembly, which took place in Helsinki the 26th of May 1983, the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) adopted by a strong majority, the proposition presented by the Greek section and undertook by this vote to manifest full solidarity with the cause of the Greek people to have returned to them the marbles of the Parthenon,

This restitution must be made within the framework of bilateral accords, under the arbitration of Unesco's Intergovernmental Committee.

AICA wishes that the Greek authorities will assure the exhibition of the sculptures in appropriate conditions to expose to advantage this illustrious artistic heritage, truly high point of universal art.

AICA estimates that the repatriation of the Parthenon sculptures will contribute largely to the lucid comprehension and deep friendship between peoples.

AICA's bureau has taken the necessary steps to inform Unesco's Intergovernmental Committee of this decision.

Adopted June 1st 1983 at Helsinki

Dan Haulica
President of the International
Association of Art Critics



Appendix II

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Mr. Krazimierz Zygmalski
Minister of Fine Arts
Ministry of Fine Arts
Warsaw, Poland

June 20, 1983
Paris, France

Sir,

I take the liberty to address you convinced that you will lend yourself to a kindly understanding of the facts which I am about to present to you.

Created in 1949, the International association of art critics is a non-governmental organisation developing its programme in accord and with the assistance of Unesco. In accordance with this programme AICA works to develop international cooperation in the domain of creation, distribution and artistic culture. Its goal is to promote critical disciplines in the domain of art, protect the moral and professional interests of its members by encouraging international meetings, facilitate the sharing of information and international exchanges, to contribute to the bringing together and to reciprocal knowledge and to carry its collaboration to organisations, national and international, and to other cultural organisations.

Strengthened by a development which is due to the presence of 50 countries, with a constitutional structure of 50 national sections, AICA participates more and more actively in the large initiatives of Unesco, dedicated to the progress of information and international entente, in the respect of the cultural identity proper to each country.

Poland, which has acquired a place of considerable importance in the minds of our colleagues in organizing two important congresses particularly successful for our association, has become famous through the years, since the contribution of one of our founders, professor Juliusz Starzynski and since the action of president Wladyslawa Jaworska, by a loyal attachment to that ideal of lucid and active collaboration proper to AICA. This is why we have deplored in the official document of our congress of 1982, which was held in Sophia-Antipolis in France, the absence of any representative of Poland. We believed that this situation was due to the state of siege and that we could therefore return in normal condition to the bonds which traditionally unite our Polish colleagues to the activity which is proposed by the assembly of our organisation. However, during our last congress held in Helsinki, between the 26th May and June 1, 1983, we were again confronted by a new Polish absence, detrimental to our hopes for efficient international collaboration; also, coming from the Polish section of AICA and signed by a number of its more well known members, a letter addressed to our general assembly informing us of the conditions which prevent the participation of the Polish critics in our congress and the impossibility, for them to exercise their profession normally. Pointing out to us the threats which are



AICA

Appendix III

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MOTION

The international association of art critics meeting in general assembly in 1983 in Finland have been made to understand by the Portuguese section of AICA that the international drawing Biennial in Lisbon has been suspended due to the fire in 1981 when many drawings were destroyed. AICA recognises the cultural importance of this event and urges the Portuguese authorities to ensure that such an artistic initiative be renewed in the future.

Fernando Pernes
President of the Portuguese section

Rui Mario Gonçalves
Member of the Portuguese section



Appendix IV

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INFORMATIONS ABOUT THE ACTIVITY OF THE NATIONAL SECTIONS DURING 1982-1983

The analysis of the national sections' progress reports, for the period 1982-1983, is based on a small number of countries, no doubt due to the fact that our general assembly is taking place in May instead of September. That is why out of 48 sections only 11 have replied. Since the last general assembly the following eleven sections have met with their staff and convened once or several times all their members. FRG, GDR, Chile: once; Denmark, Finland: twice; USA, 3 times; Netherlands: 4 times; France: 5 times; Yugoslavia: 10 times; Ireland: every week; Sweden: every month. Within these eleven sections, staff has been renewed in one: in Yugoslavia. Internal rules are being used in FRG, in Denmark, in USA, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden.

Increasing ventures have enabled the AICA to function publicly. Collaboration with radio-television are under way in FRG, GDR, Denmark, USA, Finland, Ireland, Sweden, Yugoslavia. Collective works have been published in FRG, GDR, USA, Finland, Netherlands. One must mention at this point the Irish section, which has managed, in spite of many difficulties, to publish the acts of the 1980 congress in Dublin. Exhibitions have been held, with help from AICA, in Chile, Denmark, USA, Finland, Yugoslavia. A critics' prize has been awarded in FRG, USA, Finland and in France.

Actions have been taken at union level in the USA regarding copyright and in Finland, regarding copyright and press fees in conjunction with the Finnish Journalists Union. On a wider professional level, the FRG takes part as a collective member in different official organisations. Sweden, for her part, has spoken up on the subject of art in television, art in public spaces, and regarding different artistic publications.

Two final pieces of information to end on. We have learned that, under the auspices of the Rumanian section of AICA, an important exhibition took place in Bucarest, in the Village Museum; on the theme: "Places, act and metaphor", including over forty artists and texts of several critics, as a dialogue between contemporary creation and the heritage of folk art, within a framework which was not simply aesthetic but mainly anthropological.