

# AICA

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## LETTER OF INFORMATION - CARACAS SEPTEMBER 1983

In answer to the invitation sent by the President of the Republic of Venezuela, the 36th general assembly and the XVIIth extraordinary congress of AICA were held in Caracas from September 18 to 24, 1983, within the framework of the bi-centenary celebrations of Simon Bolivar's birth. The program had been set by the Venezuelan section and its president Rafael Pineda. The congress' themes were " Perspectives of Latin American art : regional sources and international repercussions ".

In his inaugural address, Dr Luis Herrera Campins, president of the Republic, welcomed AICA " whose presence in Caracas will enhance the historical commemoration of the Libertador, Simon Bolivar's birth ". Then he added : " Bolivar's stature, within which are combined action and thought, symbolises throughout the world the struggle for freedom which is the way of mankind. Liberty and criticism are complementary concepts. The exercise of freedom allows, tolerates and needs criticism, in the same way that the exercise of criticism necessitates freedom ". Talking of the congress' theme, president Herrera Campins reminded us that, according to a Mexican author referring to bolivarian thought "we are aware that our people are neither European, nor North American, but rather more made up of Africa and America than an emanation of Europe ; for even Spain ceases to be European by its African blood, by its institutions and its character... Therefore we must assimilate and not try to impose one culture upon another as has been done all through this America's history. Juxtaposition which have been the expression of a dependent relationship... We are not seeking a culture to replace another one, but a culture within which all the component parts, without conflict, would assimilate one another."

Basing his intervention on cultural identity, "which determines the profile of a nation, from its way of life, its customs, its types of social and political integration, until the creative process in all forms of art", Doctor José Luis Alvarenga, president of CONAC, also summoned Bolivar's example, who had stated : "We are neither Indian nor European, but a sort of mixture between the legitimate owners of the country and the Spanish usurpers... More than any other, I want to see America create the greatest nation on earth, less for its expansion and its riches than for its freedom and glory." Other speeches were made by Belgica Rodriguez, vice president of AICA, Carlos Silva of the Museo de Bellas Artes of Caracas, Manuel Espinosa, president of the Venezuelan committee of ICOM, Rafael Pineda, president of the Venezuelan section of AICA, who, in a brilliant outline, pointed up the famous figure of a pioneer of Latin American art criticism, Francisco de Miranda, "symbol of freedom during those years crucial to our identity on this continent."

When his turn came to speak, president Dan Hailica, in the name of AICA, warmly thanked the President of the Republic, the representatives of the institutions as well as all those who worked to bring about this international meeting. Then



he added : "We are here under the sign of Simon Bolivar, to whom Rafael Pineda has added Miranda, to turn him into the honorary patron of this congress. It is a sign which entails responsibility and which enhances us". Quoting José Martí who, in a speech in memory of Bolivar, recognised "we are the children of his sword and the people of six nations can claim him", president Haulica continued : "we critics, from other countries, we are also the sons of his sword, but we also consider ourselves as sons of his thought, of a certain political and cultural conscience, invoked by president Herrera Campins... We are the heirs of the great dream which underlay the work of he who changed history, who liberated an entire continent... TO think in continental terms, within a context of culture and history, that was Bolivar's great lesson". It is this search for the deep identity of a whole continent which permeates AICA, in keeping with Unesco's program of contemporary development. And the trusting words of its director general M Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, who came to Caracas itself to celebrate the birth of the Libertador, encourage our efforts within this path of inter-cultural confrontation. President Haulica ended by saying "Latin America is not merely a promise, it is totally involved in the international realm of creativity".

A hundred or so delegates had accepted the Venezuelan invitation, including about fifty Latin Americans : 20 national sections were represented i.e. 2 North Americans, 5 South Americans, 11 Europeans, and for the first time, those from the Dominican Republic and Irak. Apart from 260 Venezuelan guests two observer countries, Cuba and Ecuador, had been invited by Unesco. There were also some Puerto Rican representatives. Had excused themselves : Giulio Carlo Argan (Italy) and René Berger (Switzerland), honorary presidents ; David Bandon (USA), Palma Bucaarelli (Italy), M.J. Corominas (Catalan sections of Spain), Pierre Daix (France), Daniele Giralt Miracle (Catalan section from Spain), Olga Schmedling (Norway), Guy Weelen (France) and the Soviet Russian section.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The board of directors met on September 18th in Caracas, under the chairmanship of Dan Haulica. Were presents : Harry-Paul Aletrino (Holland), Jorge Romero Brest (Argentina, honorary president), Christian Chambert (Sweden), Fernande Duchateau-Meuris (free section), Hnas-Jorg Heusser (Switzerland), Jabra I. Jabra(Irak), Georg Jappe (FCR), Jacques Leenhardt (France), Jacques Meuris (Belgium), Raoul-Jean Moulin (France), Andrée Paradis (Canada), Fernando Pernes (Portugal), Maurice Pianzola (Switzerland), Rafael Pineda (Venezuela), Pierre Restany (France), Belgica Rodriguez (Venezuela), et Palmina d'Ascoli, administrative secretary of AICA.

President Haulica summed up the work carried out by the board of directors, the general assembly and the congress in Helsinki, as well as the activities of the office since May 1983. He reminded them of Iceland's adhesion to AICA and underlined the new possibilities of geographic extensions, thanks to the presence in Caracas of representatives of Cuba and of Ecuador, specially invited by Unesco. He read out the motions voted in Helsinki : one for the return of the Parthenon marbles, the other in favor of the renewal of the international drawing Biennale in Lisbon, as well as the letter of support to our Polish colleagues, which the previous general assembly had requested him to send to the Minister for Culture in Poland. Regarding the projected collaboration between AIAP/AICA, the board of directors sated again that it was opposed to any idea of mutual affiliation but was favorable to the possible presence of observers of each association within its respective meetings.



The Jacques Meuris, general treasurer, brought up to date the financial situation outlined in Helsinki. He once more called upon the board members to intervene with the sections who do not pay, or pay irregularly, their dues. Successively, Christian Chambert (Sweden), G. Jappe (FRG) and Maurice Piazola (Switzerland) deplored the continued rise of the dollar, which means the national sections have to increase their dues in order to pay the international dues. On the other hand, Andrée Paradis (Canada) and Jacques Leenhardt (France) regretted that the AICA card ensures less and less free catalogues of exhibitions. On the president's invitation, Jacques Meuris gave a summary of the Unesco inspired consultation in June 1983, held in Vienna, on "the evolution of the artist's condition", and at which he represented AICA. It was intended to examine the follow through by various governments to the Recommendation concerning the artist's condition, adopted by the Unesco general conference in Belgrade in 1980. Jacques Meuris joined in the wishes expressed by the experts, who asked to NGOs to make sure that the member States answer the questions posed by the signing of the Belgrade agreement. He suggested that these latter might come and debate with us on the subject during a future assembly.

Speaking once more, president Haulica expounded the themes of the Caracas congress, which had been ratified by the Helsinki general assembly. After congratulating Rafael Pineda and Belgica Rodriguez for the efforts brought to the preparation of this meeting, he invited the Venezuelan president to comment the working of his program. Rafael Pineda and Belgica Rodriguez then explained their respective points of view on the congress'organisation.

As regards our collaboration with Unesco, president Haulica took stock of the current projects. He summed up the principles and methods necessary to enable the setting up a collection of slides on art from 1960 to 1980, on which, Belgica Rodriguez, in the framework of the congress, was to give a summary regarding the Latin American participation. He reminded the meeting that the next AICARC Bulletin, directed by Hans-Jorg Heusser, would be given over, as planned, to artistic documentation in Latin America, and that the co-editor would be Belgica Rodriguez. He announced that a symposium would be held in 1985 to study the results of the investigation carried out on the biennals and large international exhibitions. Finally he mentioned the relationships between AICA and CAMERA, CICT and the French Cinemathèque in order to see and discuss together artists'films on art.

As to the places for our next congresses, president Haulica confirmed the invitation from the Greek section for 1984, from September 8 to 15th, in Athens and Delphi, on the theme : "Contemporary art and the Greek world". Then he handed over to Fernando Pernes who, in the name of the Portuguese section, suggested we meet together in a congress in Lisbon in 1986, on the occasion of the II Iberian Biennale organised with the Spanish section. The theme might be "Iberian contribution to art and civilisation in the Twentieth Century". These proposals having been unanimously voted, president Haulica reminded us that we still have an invitation from the Administration Provincial of Caserta, and that, for its part, the Soviet section maintains its intention to receive us within the coming years.

The board of directors unanimously voted the agenda of the 36th general assembly.



#### IN MEMORIAM ALEXANDRE CIRICI AND JACQUES LASSAIGNE

On september 23, 1983, in Caracas, a solemn hamage was paid to the memory of Alexandre Cirici Pellicer (1914-1983) and of Jacques Lassaigue (1911-1983) honorary presidents of AICA. Associating in one thought the memory of the dear departed, president Haulica underlined that they were "linked for a long time by the friendship which underlies AICA and ensures its continuity". Praising the work and the example they have left us, he insisted on the decisive part they played in developping our association's activities. This was emphasised by Daniel-Geralt Miracle, president of catalan section of Spain, Jacques Leenhardt president of French section, Mario Barata (free section), Alfredo Boulton (Venezuela), Maria José Corominas (catalan section of Spain), Pierre Daix (France), Carlos Maldonado Bourgoin (Venezuela), Raoul-Jean Moulin, general secretary, Pierre Restany, vice president, Guy Weelen honorary general secretary of AICA.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 36th general assembly of AICA took place on September 24, 1983, in Caracas. It was presided over by Dan Haulica, who at one expressed his point of view on the work undertaken by the congress : "we are aware of America's destiny and if one cannot sum up in a few days a continent's situation, we can at least give a few key points... The history of a continent cannot be reduced to compartments, and a congress does not presume to enlighten completely. It tends only to provoke thoughts, to open ways of research, to induce everyone to work. We dream of an active criticism, to go further in the practice of our craft, and in our knowledge. Jacques Lassaigue always rose up against the desigrators ; we must positively state the important values of life and art".

Then, after thanking once more Rafael Pineda and Belgica Rodriguez for their efficient cooperation with the AICA office, president Haulica recalled the resolutions adopted by the Helsinki general assembly : the motion for the return of the Parthenon marbles, the motion for the support of the international drawing Biennale in Lisbon, the letter sent to the minister for culture in Poland to confirm our solidarity with our Polish colleagues, the presence of observers from AIAP and AICA within our respective statutory meetings. Happy at Iceland's recent adhesion, he also saluted the representatives of Cuba and Ecuador, invited by Unesco, and urged them to open up sections of AICA in their own countries.

Coming to our collaboration with AICA, president Haulica underlined the importance of the project on the slide collection, for art from 1960 to 1980, and in which Latin America could be the guiding light. Within this context, he announced that a commission, with the task of selecting the slides and of drafting the introductory texts, would meet in Paris next december, and that it would be made up of Mario Barata (Brazil), Damian Bayon (Argentina), Adelaïda de Juan (Cuba), Maurice Pianzola (Switzerland), Roberto Pontual (Brazil), Belgica Rodriguez (Venezuela). He then called upon the president of sections so that they might take action with respect to the national commissions at Unesco and collaborate in this undertaking. Another project with Unesco is the enquiry being carried out on Biennals and large international exhibitions, whose findings will be the subject of a symposium in 1985. In charge of the AICARC project, Hans Jorg Heusser presented



the Latin American dossier of the forthcoming AICARC Bulletin, for which the co-editor will be Belgica Rodriguez. Furthermore, in answer to a wish of Unesco, AICA has undertaken contacts with CAMERA, CICIT, and the French Cinemathèque in order to bring about a debate on artists' films and films on art.

On the other hand, René Berger and Jacques Meuris represented AICA at the consultation organised by Unesco in Vienna in June 1983 on "Evolution of the artist's condition", as a result of the Recommendation adopted by the general conference of Unesco in 1980 in Belgrade. Jacques Meuris asked the presidents of national sections to take direct action on this topic with their governments so as to know the difficulties encountered by them in applying the Recommendation and to inform AICA of the results of their intervention. Another sort of collaboration with Unesco is our participation in the symposium organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in December 1983 in Lisbon, on "the situation of art in contemporary society".

Several different questions were raised during the general assembly. Amongst others, it was announced that the Acts of the congress in Dublin in 1980 were published and will be sent to the presidents of the national sections; that a visual arts Biennale of the Caribbean will take place shortly, due to the initiative of the Dominican Republic. Then Georg Jappe (FRG), Jacques Leenhardt (France), Christian Chambert (Sweden), asked for a wider distribution of information within AICA itself. As to the proposal submitted by Josephina Pla, of the Argentine section, president Haulica declared that this posed a statutory problem, and that the board of directors would have to study it before submitting it to general assembly. It will therefore be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Finally, president Haulica summed up the question of our next congresses. He reminded us that the possibility of a Soviet offer remains open for the coming years, and that the proposal made by the Provincial Administration of Caserta now depended on the agreement of the Italian section. For 1984, we are invited by the Greek section to meet from September 8 to 15th, in Athens and Delphi, within the framework of a general assembly and of a congress on the theme: "Contemporary art and the Greek world". The Greek invitation was accepted by the majority, with 2 against and 2 abstentions. President Haulica then called on Fernando Pernes who, in the name of the Portuguese section, declared that his country, for the second time, is a candidate for the setting up of a congress in 1986. He pointed out that the event would concur with the second Iberian Biennale organised with the Spanish section and that therefore the theme might be "The Iberian contribution to art and civilisation in the Twentieth Century". By a vote of principle, the general assembly voted by acclamation the Portuguese project.

#### CONGRESS

Set up with the AICA office and organised under the leadership of president Rafael Pineda, the works of the XVIIth congress had as their main theme "Perspectives of Latin American art: regional sources and international bearing". They gave rise to seven sessions on the following points:

- I. A continental problematic, president Dan Haulica, communications from: Juan Acha (Mexico), María Elena Ramos (Venezuela), Luis Chacon (Venezuela), Jacobo Borges (Venezuela), Andrée Paradis (Canada), Elena Sassone (Venezuela).



2. Prehispanic Art : rediscovery and actuality of a primordial inheritance : president Jorge Alberto Manrique (Venezuela), communications from : Efraim Garcia (Venezuela), Elena Sassone (Venezuela), Lelia Delgado (Venezuela), Oswaldo Vigas (Venezuela).
3. Syncretism and creativity in the colonial art of Latin America, president Rafael Pineda (Venezuela), communications from Maurice Pianzola (Switzerland), Liam Kelly (Ireland), Dale Maconathy (USA), Manuel Quitana Castillo (Venezuela), Alicia Patino (Venezuela), Luis Losada Soucre (Venezuela), Roberto Montara Castro (Venezuela).
4. From the Nineteenth Century to the beginning of the Twentieth century : eclecticism and modernism in Latin American art : president Damian Bayon (Argentina), communication from Roberto Guevarra (Venezuela), Jaime Tello (Venezuela), Luis Alfredo Lopez Mendez (Venezuela), Samuel B. Cherson (Porto-Rico), Alberto Callazo (Argentine).
5. The Twentieth century : a new artistic conscience in Latin America, president Jorge Romero Brest (Argentina), communications by Adela Ida de Juan (Cuba), Silvano Lora (Dominican Republic), Maria Elena Ramos (Venezuela), Inocente Palacios (Venezuela), Belgica Rodriguez (Venezuela), Carlos Silva (Venezuela).
6. Unesco/AICA collaboration : a project on the collecting of slides on Latin American art 1960-1980, president Dan Haulica, communications by Noriko Aikawa -UNESCO) and Begica Rodriguez (Venezuela).
7. The Twentieth century : current dimensions of research and artistic creation in the Latin American world : presidents Mario Barata (Free section) and Pierre Restany (France), communications from Peran Erminy (Venezuela), Armando Silva (Colombia), Hélène Lassalle (France), Jacques Leenhardt (France), Martin Lopez (Dominican Republic).

Within the framework of the congress, two lectures were held : one on "Bolivar's image between the epic and the documents" by Rafael Pineda ; the other on "Four contemporary Venezuelan artists : Narvaez, Otero, Soto, Cruz Diez " by Alfredo Boulton. Finally, on september 22, 1983, a delegation of AICA, led by president Haulica and Rafael Pineda, took part in the inhumation of the remains of the painter Martin Tovar y Tovar (1837-1902) and of the writer Aristide Rojas (1836-1894), in a solemn ceremony held in Caracas at the national Pantheon, in presence of the President of the Republic. Alfredo Boulton made a speech on that occasion.



## VISITS AND RECEPTIONS

### Caracas

Museo de Arte Contemporaneo  
IIe Bienal Nacional de Artes Visuales  
Galeria de Arte Nacional (GAN)  
Ateneo : " Alternativa I "  
Complex cultural Teresa Carreno, Centro Simon Bolivar  
Ciudad Universitaria (architect Raul Villanueva, integration of monumental works by modern and contemporary artists)  
Galeria Universitaria de Arte  
Museo de Bellas Artes, Galeria de Arte Nacional : " Bolivar and his times)  
Taller de Artes Graficas (TAGA)  
Museo de arte de la Rinconada : "White period of Armando Reveron '(1889-1954), "Great masters of Venezuelan paintings", "Portraits in Venezuelan paintings since the Eighteenth century"  
Museo de Arte Colonial  
Salon de la CANTV

Presidencial Residence La Casona

### La Guaira

Salon Nacional de Jovenes Artistas 1983  
Club Camuri Grande (architecte paysageiste Ras (Eduardo Robles Piquer)

### Valles de Aragua

Hacienda Santa Teresa, Fabrica de ron  
Museo de Arte de Maracay : exhibition of artists from the Aragua State  
Ateneo de Valencia : "Venezuelan painting throughout forty years of the Arturo Michelena"  
Galeria Braulio Salazar de la Universidad de Carabobo : National display of the arts of fire.

### San José de los Altos

Collection of Latin American colonial art by Arnold Zingg.

### Ciudad Bolivar

Museo de Arte Moderno de Jesus Soto

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