

association internationale des critiques d'art
international association of art critics
asociacion internacional de criticos de arte
11 rue berryer 75008 paris téléphone (1) 42.56.17.53

lettre d'information

DECEMBER 1987

The board of Directors was held in Madrid, Circulo de Bellas Artes,
Sala de Jurita, Sunday 13th of September 1987

Attended :

Valentina ANKER (Suisse)
Mario BARATA (Section libre)
René BERGER (Suisse)
Stane BERNIK (Yougoslavie)
Campbell BRUCE (Irlande)
Christian CHAMBERT (Suède)
Marie-José COROMINAS (Espagne)
Freddy De VREE (Belgique)
Nicolai DJANBERIDZE (URSS)
José Augusto FRANCA (Portugal)
Vladimir GORIAINOV (URSS)
Jorge GLUSBERG (Argentine)
Antje Von GRAEVENITZ (Pays-Bas)
Virgil HAMMOCK (Canada)
Adelaïda de JUAN (Cuba)
Hans Jorg HEUSSER (Suisse)
Liam KELLY (Irlande)
Hélène LASSALLE (France)
Julie LAWSON (Angleterre)
Jacques LEENHARDT (France)
José MARIN-MEDINA (Espagne)
Fernande MEURIS (Belgique)
Jacques MEURIS (Belgique)
Vladimir POLEVOI (URSS)
Hermann RAUM (RDA)
Horst RICHTER (RFA)
Belgica RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela)
Cesareo RODRIGUEZ-AGUILERA (Espagne)
Kimo SARJE (Finlande)
Olga SCHMEDLING (Norvège)
Gertrud KOBKE-SUTTON (Danemark)
Slavka SVERAKOVA (Irlande)
Atanas STOIKOV (Bulgarie)
Marianne de TOLENTINO (République dominicaine)
Marcel Van JOLE (Belgique)
Alexandre XYDIS (Grèce)

et Palmina d'ASCOLI (Secrétaire administrative)

1. Presentation of reports

1.1 Report of the President

1.2 Report of the Secretary General

1.3 Report of the Chief Treasurer

These texts are attached as annexes.

1.4 Report of the Auditing Commission

Valérie BRIERE made a favourable report.

1.5 Discussion of reports and voting

René BERGER moved that discussion be limited to propositions for modification of statutes, which would undoubtedly take a long time, prior to continuing with a busy agenda.

President José-Augusto FRANCA denied this motion in favour of giving the floor to those who requested it.

Jacques LEENHARDT noted that the agenda of the Council did not mention the report on the Commission Image of Art, The Art of the Image, of which he is president.

José-Augusto FRANCA immediately added this point to the agenda, to follow the report on AICARC.

Christian CHAMBERT suggested that the reports be sent to the members of the Council in advance in the future.

The members of the Bureau agreed with this suggestion and stated that they would arrange for this to be done in the future.

Horacio SAFONS said that he would like all three official languages of AICA, French, English and Spanish, to be used regularly in meetings and correspondence; Alexandre XYDIS concurred.

The Bureau took it upon itself to ensure that this be done in the future.

2. Renewal of mandates of the Chief Treasurer, Jacques MEURIS, of the Deputy Chief Treasurer, Fernande MEURIS, and of the Secretary General, Hélène LASSALLE.

All three mandates were renewed by a majority vote of the Council.

3.1 AICARC Bulletin

Hans Jorg HEUSSER announced the forthcoming publication of the second edition on the theme Computer takes command, made possible by a special contract of \$5,000 granted by Unesco. He informed the members that the Chief Treasurer had negotiated with Unesco for a reduction in AICARC's share of the amount of the general subsidy, which itself was reduced by 30 per cent.

This share now amounted to \$9,000 per year as opposed to \$13,000(1).

Hans Jorg HEUSSER explained why the editions of AICARC on Portugal and Spain could not be printed, and expressed his regrets.

A debate ensued between him and José MARIN-MEDINA on this issue. René BERGER suggested that a commission of three or four persons be named to find a solution; this proposal was rejected. The Spanish section was to resume contact with Hans Jorg HEUSSER.

3.2 Commission on the Image of Art/The Art of the Image

Jacques LEENHARDT gave a report on the year's activities. This commission, composed of 40 persons, made it possible to determine the level of interest generated by this theme. Nevertheless, the number of persons was too large, their intellectual origins too diverse and their expectations with regard to the Commission too disparate to continue the meetings within this structure. A restricted working group was to be set up in 1988. The municipality of Rennes had been contacted, and had expressed their willingness to organize a conference on this theme in 1988.

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- (1) N.B. by Secretariat: it must be noted that under the terms of the contract with Unesco for 1988-1989, the amount of \$9,000 covered other publications in addition to AICARC.

It was unanimously approved to postpone approval of the statutes until the end of the meeting.

4. New Congresses

The Soviet section invited AICA to hold its Congress and General Assembly in Tbilissi in 1989.

The Canadian section proposed that the Congress and General Assembly be held in Canada in 1990, noting two centres of interest: the new National Gallery of Ottawa and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The Congress at Buenos Aires in 1988 was confirmed.

5. New Sections

Adelaïda de JUAN introduced the Cuban section, whose membership had been accepted in Lisbon in 1987. Adelaïda de Juan is the President. She was accompanied by three members:

- Lillian LLANES
- Oscar MORRINA RODRIGUEZ
- José VEIGAS ZAMORA

6. The members of the Administrative Council proceeded to the elections of members of the Auditing Commission:

- Valérie BRIERE (France)
- Marcel Van JOLE (Belgium)

of the members of the Election Commission:

- Gertud SUTTON (Denmark)
- Liam KELLY (Ireland)
- Valentina ANKER (Switzerland)

of the members of the Commission on Admissions to the Secretariat:

- Horst RICHTER (FRG)
- Slavka SVERAKOVA (Ireland)
- Freddy De VREE (Belgium)
- Virgil HAMMOCK (Canada)

7. Approval of the work of the Statutes Commission

René Berger, President of the Commission, discussed the meetings that had taken place in Lisbon and Paris, and explained all the changes that had been made.

The new statutes were approved by the Council.

8. Presidential elections

The two candidates, Belgica RODRIGUEZ and Jorge GLUSBERG, explained their respective programmes. The Secretary General explained how the Secretariat proceeded in establishing the electoral lists (lists of members having paid their fees), using the archives of AICA and the responses received by the sections upon receipt of provisional lists. She suggested that the lists be enlarged to include associate members having carried out tasks either within their sections or under the aegis of the Administrative Council. The details of this proposal had been included in the documents given to the members of the Administrative Council. José Augusto FRANCA, President, and René BERGER supported this proposal. Jorge GLUSBERG noted that the list of Argentinian members recognized in correspondence with the Secretariat did not correlate with the list recently established; the number of members had been considerably reduced. The Secretary General and the administrative secretary responded that the lists were based on the only archives, i.e., the minutes of the General Assemblies and the results announced each year by the Commission on Admission to the Secretariat.

The Secretary General's proposal to enlarge the lists would make it possible to reduce the margin of error between the erroneous lists inherited by the heads of sections and the restricted lists based on archive documents.

No decision was taken at this time.

9. Other topics

There was no time to discuss other questions.

President José Augusto FRANCA read the agenda for the 40th General Assembly, which was unanimously approved.

10. Presentation of the themes and
programme of the Congress

The President of the Spanish section, Cesareo
RODRIGUEZ AGUILERA, presented the programme of the
Congress.

Boa d of Directors, second session
Hotel Los alges, Madrid, september 16th 1987

Attended :

José Augusto FRANCA (Portugal)
Hélène LASSALLE (France)
Fernande MEURIS (Belgique)
Jacques MEURIS (Belgique)
Marie José COROMINAS (Espagne)
Christian CHAMBERT (Suède)
Vladimir POLEVOI (URSS)
Belgica RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela)
José MARIN MEDINA (Espagne)
Hans Jorg HEUSSER (Suisse)
Liam KELLY (Irlande)
Gertrud SUTTON (Danemark)
Valentina ANKER (Suisse)
Alexandre XYDIS (Grèce)
Valérie BRIERE (France)
Jacques LEENHARDT (France)
Campbell BRUCE (Irlande)
Virgil HAMMOCK (Canada)
Antje Von GRAEVENITZ (Pays-Bas)
Vladimir GORIAINOV (URSS)
Jorge GLUSBERG (Argentine)
Horacio SAFONS (Argentine)
Julie LAWSON (Angleterre)
Slavka SVERAKOVA (Irlande)
René BERGER (Suisse)
Freddy De VREE (Belgique)
Kimmo SARJE (Finlande)

et Palmina d'ASCOLI, Secrétaire administrative

Upon the request of Horacio SAFONS, President of the Argentinian section, it was decided to hold another meeting of the Administrative Council in order to find a solution to the problem of disparity between the lists sent to the Argentinian section and the lists established by the Secretariat based on its archives.

President José Augusto FRANCA opened the meeting.

Horacio SAFONS believed that his section had paid for several years for members it considered as full members, fees which had been accepted by the Treasury.

Fernande MEURIS brought up the proposal of the Secretary General to accept the votes of members considered full members because they had held responsible posts as section presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries and members of the Administrative Council. She emphasized that fees must be fully paid in order to vote.

Alexandre XYDIS believed that secretaries and treasurers should not be included in the lists, as there would be too many.

Horacio SAFONS stressed the difficulty of those who spoke only Spanish in understanding texts, regulations and correspondence of AICA, which exist only in English and French. He explained that the Argentinian section had received various lists from the Secretariat over the years, and that it had paid according to these lists. The most recent list, issued in summer 1987 reduced the number of full members from 47 to 14, although the section had always paid for many more.

José Augusto FRANCA referred to the regulations

- 1) In order to become a full a full member, a formal request must be made and accepted.
- 2) Sending payment did not prove anything; the Treasurer could not verify the qualifications of the members for which each section paid. Payment alone was not the only condition for full membership.

Hélène LASSALLE responded that this list was only intended to update addresses in view of the publication of the directory as she had specified in the letter attached, and that the archives had not yet been verified. She had sent out the document the day after her election by recopying the material

that Raoul-Jean MOULIN had collected from the various sections in order to prepare the manuscript for the directory. In the definitive version, full members and associate members were confused.

The Secretary General summarized the investigations of the archives: the old directories were full of errors when compared with the archives. As a result, the Secretariat had operated, up to present, with erroneous lists. The section presidents as well as the Secretariat had inherited this situation. It was decided to refer to the archives so that the lists would be accurate and no longer be based on tradition. The majority accepted this solution.

Horacio SAFONS replied that this situation cast doubts on the activities carried out by AICA in his country, and he asked the Administrative Council to make a statement in this regard.

Jacques LEENHARDT summarized the two points of view that must be considered: the Council was to be strict or generous, but in the latter case, it would run the risk of laxity.

Hans Jorg HEUSSER considered it necessary to regularize the situation. He himself as a section president would not have appreciated seeing the number of his full members change from 47 to 14.

René BERGER expressed his opinion that it was necessary to trust the presidents and that the matter must be submitted to the General Assembly for decision.

José Augusto FRANCA stated that as president he was obliged to be strict. If the President were given wider discretionary powers, as René BERGER proposed, regularization would be required within the year according to the rules of AICA. He suggested a vote on the question.

Jacques MEURIS stated that there would always be uneasiness in this regard, and that a section could not be penalized for the past errors of the Secretariat.

Liam KELLY, Gertud SUTTON and Valentina ANKER, as members of the Commission of Admissions, wished to remain neutral and abstain. Nine members present voted for strict adherence to the list established by the Secretariat.

Ten members voted in favour of accepting the lists submitted by the presidents of the national sections with regard to the presidential elections with the stipulation that the dossiers be sent within the year to the Secretariat to justify

the qualifications as full members of those voters who did not appear on the lists of the Secretariat. Virgil HAMMOCK specified that a special commission should be created to study these dossiers.

One council member voted in favour of the Secretary General's proposal to include in the lists those who had been entrusted with responsibilities at AICA. This proposal was not approved.

A majority voted in favour of accepting the presidents' lists. This decision was to be submitted to the General Assembly.

40th General Assembly 17-18 September 1987

Centro de la Reina Sofia, Madrid

I. Bureau reports

1. Report of President José Augusto FRANCA
2. Report of Treasurer Jacques MEURIS

Quitus was given by Marcel Van JOLE in
the name of the auditing commission.
3. Report of the Secretary General

Discussion of the reports

Marie Pascale GILDEMYN expressed her surprise that the reports summarized projects or activities presented in the name of AICA even though not all members had been informed. How could one learn of international projects?

Christian CHAMBERT asked that reports of activities be sent prior to the General Assembly.

Hélène LASSALLE answered Marie Pascale GILDEMYN's question by explaining that the projects prepared in the name of AICA had originated with AICA members in their individual capacity, that they would be supported by Unesco, and that the Secretariat had provided technical assistance in carrying them out.

All proposals by members, whether in an individual capacity or sponsored by sections, would always be supported and assisted inasmuch as possible by the Bureau. The projects currently in progress did not represent privileges granted to certain members, but were rather initiatives that the Secretariat, often at the request of Unesco, wished to assist. All such initiatives would be welcome. If the Secretariat

had an administrative secretary at its disposal, it would be possible to diffuse information without awaiting the General Assemblies. Documents concerning section activities would be welcome and would be distributed; if they were sent in time, they could even be included in the Secretariat's report sent in advance.

Christian CHAMBERT asked which sections had not paid.

Jacques MEURIS and Fernande MEURIS presented the list of sections who had not paid for two or more years:

Australia
Iraq
Lebanon
Mexico
Pakistan
Paraguay
Poland (with the exception of Mrs. JAWORSKA)
Dominican Republic (with the exception of
Marianne de TOLENTINO)
Rumania (with the exception of Dan HAULICA)
Senegal
Syria

Sections which had paid in 1987 following several years of non-payment:

Colombia
Brazil
United States

Returning to the question of international projects, Jacques LEENHARDT noted that sometimes a single member of a national section originated an international project. This was the case of Pierre GAUDIBERT, member of the French section, who had initiated a project of international meetings in Asilah, Morocco.

René BERGER emphasized the efforts and devotion that had contributed to AICA in spite of its difficulties, citing the GULBENKIAN Foundation as an example.

Voting on reports

President	24 in favour
	1 opposed
	1 abstention

Treasurer	24 in favour 1 opposed 1 abstention
Secretary General	24 in favour 1 opposed 1 abstention

II. Renewal of mandates of Bureau members

Treasurer	26 in favour 2 abstentions
Deputy Treasurer	30 in favour 2 abstentions

III. Necrology

France	Jean ADHEMAR
Netherlands	Harry Paul ALETRINO
Yugoslavia	Alexander TCHERESONOVIC
FRG	Juliane ROH
	Rolf WIESELDMANN

After homage was paid to each of them, the audience observed a moment of silence.

IV. New Sections

Cuba : Admission of the Cuban section was unanimously approved.

Puerto Rico : Marianne de TOLENTINO, delegate from Santo Domingo, read a letter signed by Ruth VASSALLO in the name of six Puerto Rican art critics requesting the creation of an AICA section in this country.

Samuel CHERSON, a full member of the American section residing in Puerto Rico, expressed his support of this project.

Following discussion, it was voted to accept in principle the establishment of a Puerto Rican section.

V. Admissions to the Secretariat

Freddy De VREE read the results of the work of the Commission that had been comprised of :

Slavka SVERAKOVA
Horst RICHTER
Freddy De VREE
Virgil HAMMOCK

Rejections had most often been due to technical errors.

The following members were elected.

for Austria

Markus BRUDERLIN
Hermut DRAXLER
Woefgang DRECHSLER
Peter GORSEN
Traude HANSEN
Otto KAPTINGER
Brirghardt SCHMIDT
Dretmar STEINER
Jana WISNIEWSKI

for Belgium

Marie-Pascale GILDEMYN
Suzette HENRION

for Brazil

Stefania BRIL
Alair GOMES
Leirner HALBREICH
Sanna KARMAN

for Canada

Ninon GAUTHIER
Gérard-Jean-Pierre de VILLERS

for Chile

Nene OSSA
Waldemar SOMMER

for Cuba

Adelaida de JUAN SEILER
Lililian LLANES GODOY
Oscar MOROINA RODRIGUEZ
José VEIGAS ZAMORA

for Spain

Miguel FERNANDEZ - Braso FERNANDEZ
Maria Teresa ORTEGA-LOCA
Eduardo Marco SAMPER
Francisco PRADOS de la PLAZA
Antonio LOIDO DIAZ
Juan-Angel BLASCO CARRASCOSA
Roman de la CALLE y de la CALLE
Susa Alamo SEBASTIAN
Blanca GARCIA VEGA
Carlos GARCIA-OSUNA
Luis ALOUSE FERNANDEZ
Huidebro RINCON GARCIA

for France

Liliana ALBERTAZZI
Malvina BOMPART
Gilles de BURE
Aomi OKABE
Philippe FIGUET
Georges ROQUE
Véronique SCHILTZE
Pierre VAISSE
Françoise WILL-LEVAILLANT
Françoise WOIMANT
Denys ZACHAROPOULOS

for Great Britain

John-Christopher MARTIN

for Iraq

Ihsan FETHI

for Iceland

Juliane GOTTSKALKSDOTTIR

for Luxembourg

Lucien KAYSER

for The Netherlands

Peggie BREITBARTH Van der STOK
 Betty Van GARREL
 Charles GENDERS
 Franklin LUBBERS
 Adi MARTIS
 Rastijn Van NIEUWENHUYREN
 Anna DELE
 Tincke REYNDERS-de GROOT
 Robertus SCHOONEN
 Dolf WELLING
 Doris WINTGENS
 Rob WOLTHOORN
 Michael GIBBS
 Karel LEVISSON

for FRG

Gisela BURKAMP
 Berud GROWE
 Heinrich HAHNE
 Axel HECHT
 Marie HULLENKREMER
 Renate PUVOGEL
 Bernhard SCHULZ

for Sweden

Ingamaj BECT
 L. Göran OREDSSON
 Jacqueline STARE
 Stif STALNACKE

for Uruguay

Carlos CAFFERA BARN
 Alicia HABER de PORZECANSKI
 Olga LARNAUDIE
 Maria-Luisa RAMPINI
 Alfredo TORRES

It would have to be decided whether the new members elected would be eligible to vote in the next elections.

President José Augusto FRANCA reread the article of the regulations concerning point VIII, para. 3.

"The candidacies, guided by the counsel of the Commission of Admissions, are presented to the Administrative

Council on the occasion of the General Assembly. Admissions take place on the first day of the Assembly in order to allow the new members to take part in the Assembly, although they will not be able to vote".

Horacio SAFONS stated that AICA had never enforced this article, and that tradition should be followed by granting the right to vote to the new members. The Assembly was divided on this point. Some section presidents, such as Adelaïda de Juan of Cuba, wanted this regulation to be enforced as they had not solicited votes by correspondence from their future members, which they would have done had they known that the regulation would not be enforced.

VI. Commission reports

. Report of Hans Jorg HEUSSER on AICARC

The problem of diffusion of AICARC was debated without arriving at a solution.

. Publication of slides on Latin American art

Belgica RODRIGUEZ gave a historical account of the project:

- 1983 - launching of the project at the Caracas Congress
- 1984 - designation of N. AIKAWA to be responsible for coordination at Unesco
- 1985 - President FRANCA appointed Belgica RODRIGUEZ to coordinate the project and to seek private financing as Unesco was no longer able to assume this responsibility. Belgica RODRIGUEZ was endeavouring to find resources (80 slides to be accompanied by a book written by specialists and a videotape).

. The art of the Image/The image of art

Jacques LEENHARDT gave an account of the year's meetings. The Commission had operated without a budget. The rythm of operation would have to be more flexible upon the resumption of the Commission's activities. Arrangements had been made with the City of Rennes to organize a conference in 1988.

An international conference would be held in Chile with Italian, Chilean and French participants. However, those interested in the Chile conference because of the subject matter were not members of AICA. This illustrated the problem of representation in the sections.

René BERGER made two observations:

1. These problems were already being discussed on a high level in certain cities in Europe. It would be appropriate to assemble specialists of international renown in these cities, such as Locarno and St. Etienne.

2. It would perhaps be a good idea to ask the American section to make enquiries at M.I.T., for example. It would be necessary for AICA to be up-to-date on the most recent research in this field before initiating such an undertaking. Investigation beyond the limits of Chile and Italy, underdeveloped in this area, and even France, are imperative in acquiring knowledge of the most advanced work being carried out in order to determine our own problematics.

Jacques LEENHARDT answered that without independent financial means we were completely dependent on good will and individual initiatives. He expressed the wish that René BERGER organize at Locarno a meeting in the framework of AICA in order to develop a programme for the work of the commission.

VII. Section activities

See reports of activities in annex.

VIII. Coming congresses

The Buenos Aires Congress voted for in Lisbon was confirmed. The Congresses in Tbilissi in 1989 and in Canada in 1990 were unanimously approved.

IX. Adoption of the new statutes

The President of the Statute Commission, René BERGER, read the statutes and rules and regulations in their entirety to the General Assembly, comparing them with changes made by the Commission, first in French and then in the two English versions at the disposal of the Secretariat for the new formulations. The Assembly discussed the French and English versions, proposed changes in both the English and French versions, and voted on each point. At the conclusion of this long session the new statutes were adopted.

X. Presentation of candidates
for the presidential elections

José Augusto FRANCA confirmed that he was not a candidate. Belgica RODRIGUEZ and Jorge GLUSBERG spoke about their programmes.

XI. Presidential elections

The problem of the discrepancies between the lists inherited by the Argentinian section and the lists established based on the Association's archives had not yet been resolved.

President José Augusto FRANCA spoke about the Extraordinary Administrative Council and asked the General Assembly which option to choose: whether to adhere to the lists he described as "legalist", established according to the archives, or to accept the presidents' lists. Initially, the General Assembly was inclined to adopt the restricted lists based on the archives.

This position provoked opposition from the Argentinian section, which threatened to resign from AICA if the list submitted by the section was not accepted in its present form. This situation caused divisions within the Assembly.

Jorge GLUSBERG announced that he would withdraw his candidacy in such a case. Belgica RODRIGUEZ took the floor in turn to announce that as a Latin American, art critic and friend of Jorge GLUSBERG, she would also withdraw her candidacy if Jorge GLUSBERG maintained his position.

BERGER expressed his concern of the consequences of rigorism that was too strict and did not take into account the good faith of the presidents and the traditions upon which they based their authority. He renewed his proposal, adopted by the Administrative Council at the conclusion of its extraordinary session, to give the presidents discretionary powers and thereby maintain the cohesiveness of AICA by respecting the activities of each section. René BERGER was supported by a speech by Jacques LEENHARDT, and both specified that the presidents should provide the Secretariat within the next three months with justification supported by documentation of the qualifications of its members who had been accepted on trust. A majority of the General Assembly voted for this proposal (3-1).

Election results

Election of vice-presidents :

Elected for the period 1987-1990:

Jacques LEENHARDT (France)
Christian CHAMBERT (Sweden)
Julie LAWSON (Great Britain)
Virgil HAMMOCK (Canada)

Election or re-election of the ten members of the Administrative Council following consultation with President José Augusto FRANCA with regard to the ex-equo candidates.

Valentina ANKER (Switzerland)
Valérie BRIERE (France)
Silvia CHICO (Portugal)
Maria-José COROMINAS (Spain)
Antero KARE (Finland)
Daniel GIRALT MIRACLE (Spain)
Herman RAUM (GDR)
Noël SHERIDAN (Ireland)
Slavska SVERAKOVA (Great Britain)
Marcel Van JOLE (Belgium)

Election of the President

The Election Commission gave President José Augusto FRANCA the preliminary voting results, emphasizing that they had worked under great tension had been pressured by time limits.

José Augusto FRANCA announced 124 votes for Belgica RODRIGUEZ and 122 for Jorge GLUSBERG. The final results would be announced later.

José Augusto FRANCA declared Belgica RODRIGUEZ President of AICA.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ suggested to the General Assembly that José Augusto FRANCA be elected Honorary President.

This proposal was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Conclusion of the General Assembly

AICA

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XXIst CONFERENCE
Madrid, september 1987
The architecture of Today

Monday, september 14

Opening, San Fernando Royal Academy of Fine Arts

Reina Sofia Center

First report, Prof. Oriol Bohigas, Museum and exhibition architecture

Tuesday, september 15

Reina Sofia Center

Open Forum

Second report, Prof. Valeriano Bozal, Art and Architecture reviews

Third report, Prof. Simon Marchán, Relationship between Plastic art
and architecture in the twentieth century

Each report was discussed. The second part of the meetings was devoted to
AICA members'talks and discussions.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Three years ago, I accepted the nomination for the Chairmanship of our Association. This nomination, put forward by the French section of our Association, was a great honour for me. I was then elected by you. At the time, as you probably recall, I stated that I would not run for a second term, as I believed - and I still believe - that in order to preserve the international character of the AICA, the Chairmanship of our organization should reflect this international vocation. Therefore, when I was asked to stand again, I had to decline. Now, as an ordinary member of our Association, I am pleased to note that we have two nominees this year, one of whom will become our new Chairman.

Although as outgoing Chairman I am not qualified to express any opinion with regard to this cordial contest, I would like to voice the hope that our assembly will choose the candidate who best meets the scientific, administrative and corporate needs of the AICA. I am confident that the best candidate will win - since, according to democratic principle, the one selected by the majority is held to be the best - even if the minority might (and indeed is expected to) feel otherwise.

It is a general rule (and indeed a sine qua non condition) that the best candidate is the one whose programme contains the greatest number of realistic ideas. By realistic ideas, I mean ideas that can be turned into action - in a word, ideas that are covered by the material possibilities necessary for their implementation.

As outgoing Chairman, I can only stress - with a great deal of pleasure - that neither of our two candidates is from Europe. For the past quarter century, our Association's Chairmen have been Europeans. Today, we are pleased to have two candidates

from the other side of the world - from the South American continent, thousands of kilometers across the seas from our Association's headquarters. This break with tradition is without a doubt a very good thing - for the world is evolving and new cultural centres are taking the place of old. Indeed, commercial competition is such that they could disappear altogether.

Many years ago, the AICA had as its Chairman a North American - James Sweeney. At the time, we were quite a small family, devotedly looked after from Paris by Madame Gille-Delafon, Secretary General. Today, we have more than two thousand members and some fifty national sections in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Oceania. Therefore, we must do our best to achieve a coherent, organic central organization while supporting the efforts and upholding the individuality of each national section. The future of the AICA will not be an easy one, and I feel that in order to maintain a proper balance within our Association, it will be necessary - indeed indispensable - to have a secretariat in Paris and a Chairman able to maintain constant contact with this secretariat. When I say that our future will not be easy, I am sure that you will agree that it is impossible to even conceive of a future free of difficulty for a cultural and social vocation which is being crushed by the reigning "culture business" promoted by the media, which offer a weak, watered down form of "culture".

As I step down as Chairman, I would like to take stock of the strengths and weaknesses of our Association today.

At the end of the first year of my term, I spoke to you at length of two unsuccessful projects: In early 1985, I had proposed that a sort of "Who's Who" of the world's art critics be compiled. The AICA is the only international organization capable of undertaking such a project. I had also launched a survey on the conditions under which art critics work in the various countries represented within the AICA. Because of the very insufficient number of responses to the first initiative, it had to be abandoned. The second project also had to be dropped due to lack of response. I still feel that it would be useful for all of us to be acquainted with one another professionally and to be informed of the conditions under which our profession

is exercised. This would promote reflection from a sociological standpoint, which could perhaps help us to see things more clearly in the cultural fog which surrounds us, in today's world in which art must assume a symbolic role of whose fundamental importance we are all aware.

The end of the second year of my term was marked by a somewhat dramatic appeal concerning our Association's material situation. The reduction of our subsidy from UNESCO, combined with the fall in value of the dollar, had a dire effect on the fragile economy of the AICA. This 50% drop in our revenues prompted me to send an SOS out to all of you, requesting financial assistance or at least that you pay your outstanding membership dues. The result was not encouraging - another unsuccessful undertaking.

By instituting some rather Draconian measures to reduce costs - and the bureau has set an example for all of us in implementing these measures - and thanks to the increase in membership dues which was subsequently voted by our members - we were able to survive, while hoping that better days would soon come.

One of this year's major events was the revision of AICA's statutes and by-laws by a commission elected at the 1986 General Meeting in Lisbon, efficiently chaired by René Berger. This task was completed on the 20th of January this year, at a meeting called by me in Paris. These documents, in which all of the suggestions from the members of our association are taken into consideration, were, in compliance with your decision, communicated to all of the national chapters, who found nothing to contest. They will now be submitted to the approval of this General Meeting. I am sure that you will agree with me that they will provide indispensable help in the procedure for the election of our new Chairman.

The reports drawn up by Hélène Lassalle, our Secretary-General, and by Jacques Meuris, our Treasurer-General, will give you the details on what is happening within our Association. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their work - which is now done on a volunteer basis - and for the devotion with which they have carried out these tasks. I would also like to thank our dear friend and Administrative Secretary, Palmina d'Ascoli, for her invaluable contribution.

I would also like to thank the Belgian and Portuguese chapters for their efforts in organizing the General Meetings and the **Congresses** of 1985 and 1986. The proceedings of the 1985 **Congres** have already been published. I am sure that all of you share my regret that the AICARC Bulletin on Portuguese art could not be published due to lack of funds, although all of the material had been prepared. I am also sad to say that the planned issue on Spanish art could not be prepared for other reasons. In neither case is our friend H. J. Heusser in any way responsible. Moreover, he would like to inform us that a new issue of the Bulletin, dealing with the problems of data processing, has already gone to press.

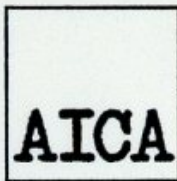
In conclusion, I would like to salute the Spanish chapter of our Association, which last year celebrated its 25th anniversary with a **congres** to whose opening I was kindly invited. They have also organized this 40th General Assembly of the AICA and this 21st International **Congres** - which would not have been possible without our colleague José Marin Medina. On behalf of the AICA bureau, I would like to thank him for his devotion and hard work.

The time has now come to say good-bye, and to thank all of AICA's members, and especially my colleagues on the Board of Directors, for the support that they have given to the bureau over which I have been honoured to preside these past three years.

I would also like to thank UNESCO for its support, as well as its Vice Director General Henri Lopes, whom I have had the honour to receive in Paris, and Miss Madeleine Gobeil, for her friendship and for her unfailing commitment to the AICA's cause.

To the new Chairman whom you are about to elect, I would like to extend my best wishes - for his term and for the future of this Association, whose vocation is both cultural and social and of which it has been a pleasure for me to be a member for the past thirty years.

José-Augusto FRANCA
President



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THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

40TH GENERAL MEETING, MADRID, SEPTEMBER 1987

As in the previous year, and probably for several years to come, the International Secretariat had limited means at its disposal in 1987. As a result, permanent staff at Paris headquarters had to be reduced, and more specific activities had to be launched. These activities can be developed in future through specific contracts with UNESCO or by means of specific actions in certain countries. AICA's presence on the international scene has not been diminished. On the contrary, it has been heightened considerably, although the Association has had to change its mode of operation.

I. Amendments to the statutes

On the initiative of Chairman José-Augusto França, modification of the statutes was proposed at the General Meeting held in Lisbon in September 1986. A commission was appointed. Its members are:

René Berger, Chairman of the Commission
Christian Chambert
Giuseppe Gatt
Georg Jappe
Jacques Meuris
Slavska Sverakova
Guy Weelen
Alexandre Xydis
Hélène Lassalle, Secretary of the Commission

Several proposals were addressed to the General Secretariat following those made by Chairman França. All were carefully studied. The commission's aim was to make the statutes and the by-laws completely cohesive. Partial rectifications made at various times in the past had somewhat altered these documents. Today, the version submitted by the commission is logical, clear and conducive to the greatest possible degree of democratisation. All of the activities of the Association as such

as well as all proposed measures are to be submitted to the approval of the Board of Directors or proposed by the Board. They will only be adopted after being voted by the General Assembly. Thus, the General Assembly is the decision-making authority. This is in response to the wishes of the members of the Association and completes the process of change initiated at the 1979 Convention in Lugano.

We owe special thanks to Slavka Sverakova, who took upon herself the very difficult task of translating the new statutes and by-laws into English.

2. Relations with UNESCO

At present, they are excellent and, notwithstanding the imminent changes within UNESCO, extremely promising for the future - despite the fact that they can only provide us with limited resources.

2.1. Relations with other NGOs

- 2.1.1. This year as every year, the Secretary General attended the plenary sessions of the NGOs held at UNESCO. In addition, informal meetings of NGOs having a specifically cultural vocation were attended once more this year. The Executive Board appointed a working group to study matters of concern to NGOs, and a meeting of the 39 subsidized NGOs was held on 27 August 1987.
- 2.1.2. With regard to the Decade for Development, the AICA put forth three proposals concerning Africa, Latin America, Biennales and major international events.
- 2.1.3. UNESCO appointed Bernard Faivre d'Arcier as consultant to NGOs. He was very favourably impressed by the AICA's activities, and we will be continuing our discussions with him in view of improving management and better utilising the resources offered to us by UNESCO. Obviously, we would dearly like to see the NGOs re-evaluated in accordance with their activities rather than with the geographical area they cover. Bernard Faivre d'Arcier is very much aware of the legitimacy of this claim and will be making efforts in this direction.

2.2. Specific operations proposed in the context of the Decade for Development

2.2.1. Bulletin Inter-Biennale

As announced last year, UNESCO's Fund for the Promotion of Culture signed a special contract with the AICA, in collaboration with the AIAP, to study the ways in which the recommendations proposed following the Venice meeting on Biennales and major international exhibitions might be applied. For the AICA, Michael Gibson and Hélène Lassalle were appointed. For the AIAP, André Parinaud was appointed to deal with audiovisual projects. Michael Gibson proposed a Bulletin Inter-Biennale, of which he will be editor in chief and which will soon publish its first issue. Some thirty of the 52 Biennale Directors contacted responded positively to our request and approved the dummy issue submitted to them. For the coming Biennale to be held in Sao Paulo on 3 October, we have organized a meeting of those Biennale and international exhibition Directors able to be present. Jorge Glusberg, Commissioner of the Architecture Section of the Biennale, helped to organize this meeting.

2.2.2. A Biennale for Africa

The idea of an African Biennale is one which dates back many years, and UNESCO drew up a preliminary study for this in February 1982. In September 1986, when James Houra came to our Convention in Lisbon, the idea was brought up once again. In June 1987, Hélène Lassalle, Secretary General, Alioune Badiane, Director of Decorative Art Manufacturing in Senegal, and Pierre Gaudibert, who were all in Abidjan to sit on a panel, contacted the local authorities of the Ivory Coast. The first steps were then taken towards organizing a Biennale, to be held alternately in Dakar and Abidjan and featuring both plastic arts and folk arts. The theme of the first Biennale will be West African art. At this stage, we are organizing a preparatory meeting to be held in Dakar during the Arts Festival (FESPAC) in December 1988. Chairman José-Augusto França has officially appointed Alioune Badiane and James Houra to be our correspondents and to head the project in Africa. The Culture Ministries of Senegal and the Ivory Coast are interested in the project.

We have made sure of having the support of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation in Paris. We submitted a request to UNESCO in the context of the participation programme, and Mr. Indrasen, Director of UNESCO's Crafts Department, promised his help. We are very hopeful that our efforts will be crowned with success.

2.2.3. Projects with Latin America

In December 1986, Hélène Lassalle was invited by the Cuban government to attend the second Havana Biennale. She took this opportunity to strengthen ties with the Wifredo Lam Centre, which is in charge of organizing the Biennale, and to meet with a number of persons responsible for cultural affairs in Cuba. Other members present at the Havana Biennale - including Angel Kalenberg, Director of the Montevideo Museum and member of the Free Section, and Pierre Gaudibert and Giovanni Joppolo, members of the French Section - used this opportunity to discuss other possible future projects. During talks in Cuba and later in Paris, plans were drawn up for a number of exhibitions featuring artists from Latin America (Cuba, Brazil and Uruguay). Talks are now underway with a number of possible exhibition venues in the Paris area, as well as with museums in the French provinces and in Gibellina, Sicily. Possibilities for Spain are also being examined.

2.3. Participation in in UNESCO's symposium on art and the environment

In May 1987, a symposium centred on the theme "Art in the City" was held in Prague. The symposium was organized by Jiri Kotalik, Director of Museums of the City of Prague, with the assistance of the Czech Committee for UNESCO and with the support of UNESCO's Department for Artistic Creation. AICA was well represented and very active at the symposium. The majority of participants were artists and architects. Dan Haulica, Honorary Chairman of the AICA, presided over the first day of the symposium. Jiri Kotalik presided over the second day, and Pierre Restany presided over the third. Speakers included Jorge Glusberg, Sven Sandström (founder of AICARC), and Hélène Lassalle. Sven Sandström and Hélène Lassalle were the rapporteurs for the symposium. The closing address was given by Sven Sandström. Hélène Lassalle drew up the summary report and assembled and drew up the recommendations. Her text will be published by UNESCO as the final report of the symposium. Recommendations included requests for aid for future conferences to be held once more in Prague (on museum architecture), in Germany, in Paris (on new towns) and in Montreal (slated for 1989). The AICA will continue to benefit from all of these various types of meetings.

2.4. Publication of slides on Latin American art

Belgica Rodriguez was appointed by Dan Haulica in 1983 to head the project. As UNESCO was unable to provide funding for publication as planned, Belgica Rodriguez was mandated by José-Augusto França at the Brussels Convention in September 1985. Belgica Rodriguez was able to procure the funds necessary for the publication of the slides, which will be available sometime in the next few months.

3. AICARC

The second issue of AICARC on computerized documentation is completed and will be available soon, in accordance with the special contract with UNESCO. Unfortunately, the special issue on Portugal, for which all of the articles had been assembled, could not be published due to lack of funds. It also proved impossible for Hans-Jorg Heusser to do an issue on Spain. In view of the problems involved in publishing issues on individual countries, the content of AICARC-Bulletin should be re-examined.

4. The Commission for "Art de l'Image/Image de l'Art"

I would like to recall here that Jacques Leenhardt, Chairman of the French section, founded this Commission in 1982, at Sophia-Antipolis. In 1984, Jacques Leenhardt entrusted Nadine Descendre with the responsibility for this commission. The General Secretariat worked closely with Nadine Descendre and Catherine Ferbos of the British Council in setting up and developing this commission, for which it took care of the administrative side of things. Thanks to the generous hospitality and technical assistance of the British Council in Paris, the commission was able to start work this winter. Four meetings were held. Various questions were raised at these meetings, and it was soon apparent that these questions were too diverse to be discussed at plenary sessions. By mutual agreement, it was decided that another method of working be adopted. A small task force made up of a limited number of persons will organize meetings to deal with the following specific topics:

- . Creators and new techniques
- . New techniques and changes in esthetics;
synthetic images
- . Artificial intelligence and esthetic perception; cognitive
archetypes
- . Computerized documentation
- . Art criticism and audiovisual techniques

The City of Rennes and the Ministry of Culture in Paris are interested in funding the publication of a set of interviews. A colloquium open to the public could possibly be held in Rennes in 1989 or 1990 when the publication comes out.

5. Next Congresses

We have already received the first printed announcements of the Buenos Aires **Congres** slated for 1988. The very timely theme of the event will be new techniques. This will be a good opportunity to take stock of the initial efforts of the AICA on the subject.

6. New sections

Adélaïda de Juan has submitted the names of the members of the Cuban Section, who played a very active role in the second Havana Biennale in December 1986.

We have once again been in contact with critics in the People's Republic of China, who are still interested in creating a section.

Talks are continuing with Haiti.

7. Activities of the sections

We are very proud to present the Proceedings of the Belgium **Congres** published this spring. Not only is the document presented in a way that is highly pleasing esthetically, its content gets top marks. We would like to congratulate the Belgian section for this remarkable piece of work, especially Jacques and Fernande Meuris, who put in a great deal of effort. (see below, details of the activities of all of the sections)

CONCLUSION

Despite our relative lack of funds, the AICA has continued to play a very active international role. The General Secretariat actively collaborated on a number of projects initiated by AICA members. Two types of activity have developed parallelly: activities of the sections, with which it is somewhat difficult for the General Secretariat to keep up given problems with the mail and with communication in general; and specific, international scale projects undertaken by certain members on an individual basis. Thus, the AICA is becoming increasingly well known as an organization able to provide international bodies with the moral backing and basic support of experts. This is an aspect which should be developed in future.

Hélène Lassalle
Secretary General