



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

lettre d'information

APRIL 1988

Board of Directors, february 13th 1988
Paris, 11 rue Berryer 75008

Attended :

Valentina ANKER (Suisse)
Alexander BASSIN (Yougoslavie)
Valérie BRIERE (France)
Christian CHAMBERT (Suède)
Marie José COROMINAS (Espagne)
Freddy De VREE (Belgique)
José Augusto FRANCA (Portugal)
Margarethe FLORYAN (Danemark)
Hélène LASSALLE (France)
Jacques LEENHARDT (France)
Fernande MEURIS (Belgique)
Jacques MEURIS (Belgique)
Belgica RODRIGUEZ (Venezuela)
Gertrud KOBKE-SUTTON (Danemark)
Olga SCHMEDLING (Norvège)
Slavka SVERAKOVA (section libre)
Marcel Van JOLE (Belgique)
Dolf WELLING (Pays-Bas)
Alexander XYDIS (Grèce)

Were excused

Dr Horst RICHTER (R.F.A)
Georg JAPPE (R.F.A)
Julie LAWSON (Royaume Uni)
Joseph Emile MULLER (Luxembourg)
Antje Von GRAEVENITZ (Pays-Bas)
René BERGER (Suisse)
Pierre RESTANY (France)
Guy WEELEN (France)
Campbell BRUCE (Irlande)
Liam KELLY (Irlande)
Hans Jorg HEUSSER (Suisse)
Mulk Jaj ANAND (Inde)
J.J. MAYZ LYON (Venezuela)
Dan HAULICA (Roumanie)
Jose MARIN MEDINA (Espagne)
Geraldo EDSON de ANDRADE (Brésil)
German RUBIANO CABALLERO (Colombie)

Belgica RODRIGUEZ, President, and Hélène LASSALLE, Secretary General, thanked the members present, opened the meeting and read the agenda.

I. Summary of the results of the decisions
taken at the General Assembly in Madrid

1. Statutes

Hélène LASSALLE gave a summary of the adoption of the statutes, their deposition at Paris police headquarters and their translation (see report attached as annex).

2. Elections

Marcel Van JOLE proposed that all votes be accepted and that the situation be integrally regularized.

Jacques LEENHARDT suggested that the two problems in litigation, voting and qualifications as members of the voters, be dissociated.

- a) The Council unanimously accepted all the votes cast at the General Assembly of Madrid;
- b) The council agreed that a procedure should be determined that would permit the regularization of the situation of members having voted in Madrid and who did not appear on the lists established by the Bureau in 1987.

Jacques LEENHARDT noted that there were other problems. Some members who were well-known and who had been with AICA for many years had never submitted dossiers to the Admissions Commission. It would be difficult to request curricula vitae from them at the present date. Jacques LEENHARDT therefore suggested a special procedure. Since the AICA archives were complete and up-to-date as from 1970, it would be appropriate to separate members who had joined before and after 1970. For those members who had joined before 1970 - and only on this occasion - the section presidents would provide a global dossier with their personal attestation that the lists of members they gave to a special commission to be named by the next Administrative Council, were actually qualified to be members. For members who had joined after 1970, the presidents would submit dossiers to

the Commission of Admissions in accordance with the normal procedure.

This type of procedure concerns all members of AICA, not only those having voted in Madrid.

The Council unanimously approved this proposal.

The President and Secretary General promised to provide the section presidents with lists of all full and associate members, according to the documents available in the archives, within a month.

Nota Bene - It was established that Eduardo LORENCO of Portugal, whose qualifications as a member had been questioned, had actually been accepted by the Commission of Admissions.

Quorum

Christian CHAMBERT raised the question of the quorum. How many members were there in the Administrative Council? Did we have the quorum necessary for our decisions to be legal? Belgica RODRIGUEZ responded that there were 82 members in the Administrative Council, including honorary presidents, in addition to an undetermined number of former vice-presidents. She added that it was always very difficult to assemble a large number of participants for the Council meetings because of the geographical extension of AICA.

Since one-quarter of the Council members were present and another quarter, excused, had confided in the members who were present, it was decided to carry out the work with those in attendance.

Jacques LEENHARDT gave a statement on the calculations that José Augusto FRANCA had made: a legal quorum would require the presence of 22.5 members. This brought into focus the problem of representation. Did the Administrative Council have the right to limit its members in order to avoid inflation?

Jacques MEURIS asked if the French legislation on associations, according to the Law of 1901, provided for this.

Marcel Van JOLE suggested that former presidents and vice-presidents not be included in the quorum; while retaining the right to attend and to speak, they would not have the right to vote.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ suggested that the decision be taken at the next General Assembly.

II. International Congresses (Buenos Aires)

The Bureau thanked all those who had written following the Madrid Congress.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ gave details on the Buenos Aires Congress. She had held several meetings with the organizers (see attached report).

Preparations for the Congress were going well. A last-minute problem had prevented Jorge GLUSBERG from participating in the Administrative Council; the Bureau would send all members precise details as soon as possible.

III. AICA projects for 1988

III.1 Inter-Biennial Bulletin

Hélène LASSALLE spoke on developments in ongoing projects, as she had previously done in Madrid; in particular, she referred to the contract signed by AICA and the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture of Unesco in order to put into effect the recommendations of the Venice consultations on large international meetings and exhibitions. AIAP, a co-contractor, was entrusted with audio-visual projects, and AICA with an inter-biennial bulletin and with the promotion of artists excluded from the international circuits.

AICA entrusted overall responsibility for the project to Michael Gibson at the request of Unesco (see attached report).

The Inter-Biennial Bulletin, under Michael Gibson's direction and with the assistance of the Secretary General, would be an organism for liaison and information. A bi-annual publication, it would include practical information (calendar, contents, operations, means of transportation and lodgings) on international meetings and exhibitions throughout the world. There would also be a section on critical reflection. With two editions a year, it would be possible to announce upcoming events as well as give accounts of them. A layout had been completed and had aroused general interest. Financing would be arranged by the annual International Fairs, who had indicated their interest, although they would prefer a different title, such as Art Inter-Bulletin.

José Augusto FRANCA questioned the merits of financial assistance from commercial concerns. He disapproved of AICA accepting assistance from organizations whose official stated objective was profit. This involved moral and intellectual responsibility and presented serious ethical problems. Deontologically, should AICA enter into what José Augusto FRANCA considered to be a compromise?

Marcel Van JOLE, for his part, completely opposed this point of view, and was supported by Valentina ANKER. Art critics must also consider the question of the Fairs.

Alexandre XYDIS asked if such a project could help AICA's image.

Jacques LEENHARDT considered editing to be a fundamental problem, and that Michael Gibson should ensure that the critical liberty of the review be preserved; the review should reflect the intellectual activity of AICA.

Michael Gibson would give a summary of his project to the Administrative Council.

Jacques MEURIS emphasized that the three sections would always be clearly separated in the Bulletin: the section dedicated to articles, which was indispensable, the information section, and the advertising section (which would be separate). Marcel Van JOLE added that an evaluation would be made based on the first edition.

The Council agreed to support the project under the above conditions.

III.2 The African Biennial

Hélène LASSALLE gave an account of the evolution of the project, which was slow, and the interest it had generated at Unesco.

III.3 AICA Bulletin of 1987 publications

After several discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of such a publication, it was decided not to publish a bulletin of annual publications. The Council preferred that the AICA concentrate on the Who's Who project, an initiative of José Augusto FRANCA, that had been supported by Belgica Rodriguez. Publication every five years would be reasonable, while the list of members would be updated every two years.

III.4 Fortieth anniversary of AICA (see report attached as annex)

The Council considered it to be of paramount importance that AICA prepare a homage to the founding members at Unesco. A committee had been named, composed of the following members:

Jacques LEENHARDT, President
Hans Jorg HEUSSER
Marcel Van JOLE
Olga SCHMEDLING

They would work closely with the Bureau and the Unesco personnel involved to prepare the event and the publication of the anthology. The Committee would also present a preliminary project proposal for the history of AICA to the next General Assembly. At that time, a commission would be named to work on this project proposal and to find the necessary financing for future publication.

III.5 AICARC

Jacque MEURIS emphasized that the AICARC bulletin was the only one of its kind and that he would work at solving the problem of its diffusion. He proposed that it be expanded into a more general bulletin of our Association. Its contents would be two-fold:

- archives (as at present)
- new of the Association in general

III.6 Colloques

Belgica RODRIGUEZ spoke of the projects of Ciudad BOLIVAR (October 1988) and Havana (November 1988).

Jacques MEURIS asked about the possibility of obtaining preferential travel arrangements for those AICA members who would like to attend conferences without having been invited as participants.

He was told that the undertaking would seem to be too complicated.

IV. Information on the Bureau
President and Secretary General
(see report attached as annex)

Treasurer's report

Jacques MEURIS explained the worrying situation of AICA for the last five years, which had been worsened by the fall of the dollar. At present, it was impossible to offer a decent salary to an administrative secretary, even on a half-time basis; the Bureau therefore no longer had an administrative secretary.

Jacques LEENHARDT proposed that ten per cent of the proceeds of all contracts obtained by AICA be given to the organization. Hélène LASSALLE replied that this practice had been followed for a long time and that, in any event, these sums, and the number of contracts, were limited (one every two years); AICA received little more than \$1,000 from each contract.

Jacques MEURIS added that, following negotiations with Madeleine GOBEIL, he had obtained a considerable reduction in Unesco's biannual subsidy to AICA, which had been reserved for AICARC, in order to use it for other expenses.

Several Council members brought up the serious problem of sections who do not pay or who do not pay enough (A. XYDIS, V. ANKER, F. De VREE).

Jacques MEURIS proposed the solution envisaged during the meeting with the expert accountant, Marcel BERNET. He gave an example of the operation of the associations for which he was responsible: Each year the Bureau would send an up-to-date list of full and associate members to each section president and, at the same time, request the payment of fees in accordance with recorded members. Jacques MEURIS did not underestimate, however, the difficulties encountered by certain sections due to economic and political constraints (rampant inflation, difficulty in procuring currency). It would be appropriate to consider suitable solutions.

Jacques LEENHARDT supported Jacques MEURIS' position. He proposed that the Administrative Council be responsible for finding solutions. Jacques LEENHARDT expressed the desire that several rate categories be established on the condition that exceptions be ad hoc and temporary. The Treasurer, after analyzing each situation, would submit his proposal to the Administrative Council, who would make the final decision. A legal procedure would have to be established for cases that required breaks with standard policies.

Jacques MEURIS agreed with this proposal, as did the rest of the Council. Christian CHAMBERT asked if it were possible to request assistance from Unesco for each section. He also asked if it were possible to pay fees in currencies other than the dollar.

Jacques MEURIS responded positively to the second question, on the condition that the currency chosen was negotiable in European banks. He added that if the Council's proposal with respect to fees was applied following the next General Assembly, it would not resolve the deficit of \$16,000 foreseen for 1988.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ explained that the Bureau would do all it could this year to ensure that the material assistance expected from Unesco in the form of premises and voluntary secretarial assistance would reduce our expenses in the course of the first four months of her term; she had already contacted foundations. She hoped to be able to provide more precise and positive information in Buenos Aires.

Jacques MEURIS thought he would be able to send the 1988 invoices upon receipt of the lists verified by the sections and returned to the Secretariat. He still believed it necessary to increase the amount of the fees and propose this decision to the next General Assembly.

Alexandre XYDIS proposed that the AICA card be changed in 1989.

Gertrud SUTTON suggested that all members of AICA become full members and pay full rates, and that those who did not wish to pay be excluded.

Christian CHAMBERT emphasized the intellectual value of our Association's activities. If eminent personalities collaborated with us and raised the level of our meetings, countries or members would be more willing to support our undertakings and to pay their membership fees.

Organization of congresses

A. XYDIS insisted on the intellectual rather than touristic orientation of the congresses. A congress every two years would allow for more thorough preparation.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ announced the date and place of the next Congress:

2 - 8 October 1988

at the Centro Cultural San Martin in Buenos Aires

Other topics

The questions brought up in Pierre RESTANY's letter with regard to voting procedures would require lengthy discussion, which would not be possible within the limited schedule of the present Council. They would be the subject of a debate during the next session of the Administrative Council.

Christian CHAMBERT proposed that in the future a final session of the Administrative Council follow the General Assembly and closing of each congress.

This proposal was unanimously approved.

Belgica RODRIGUEZ expressed the desire that this intermediate session of the Administrative Council inaugurate an annual tradition.

P.S. The next congress

Belgica RODRIGUEZ met with Jorge GLUSBERG on 18 February 1988 in Paris to discuss the next congress. (Unavoidable circumstances had prevented him from participating in the Administrative Council.)

Definitive dates: Congress and General Assembly
2 - 8 October 1988

(Optional trip: 9-13 October 1988)

Theme: New technologies, new creations

The preliminary programme was ready. It would be sent to members by the Argentinian section as soon as it was finalized.