

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES CRITIQUES D'ART
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ART CRITICS
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE CRITICOS DE ARTE

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NEWSLETTER

After the defection of the Brazilian section, the 31st General Assembly of AICA took place in Barcelona from September 30 to October 4, 1979, made possible through the efforts of president Alexandre Cirici. The meetings were held at the Fondation Miro where we were warmly received by the director, Francesc Vicens.

In spite of short notice, the General Assembly reunited approximately one hundred people representing 22 national sections. Among them, for the first time, were delegates from the USA and Senegal, in addition to a heavy Spanish and Catalan participation, who spoke of the renaissance of their common section. Apologized for their absence: Palma Bucarelli (Italy) and Wladyslawa Jaworska (Pologne), Giulio Carlo Argon (Italy), Georges Ducaille (France), Gillo Dorfles (Italie), Jacques Lassaigue (France), Léopold Sédar Senghor (Sénégal), Guy Weelen (France), Alexandre Xydis (Grèce).

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

The Council of Administration met twice under the direction of Alexandre Cirici. Present were: Harry-Paul Aletrino (Pays Bas), Mario Barata (Section libre), Azra Begic (Yougoslavie), René Berger (Suisse), Antonio Bonet-Correa (Espagne), Christian Chambert (Suède), Fernande Duchateau-Meuris (Section libre), Jorge Glusberg (Argentine), Vladimir Gorainov (URSS), Dan Haulica (Roumanie), Laurent Lamy (Canada), Jacques Meuris (Belgique), René Micha (Belgique), Raoul-Jean Moulin (France), Hans Paalman (Pays Bas), Andrée Paradis (Canada), Maurice Pianzola (Suisse), Vadim Polevoi (URSS), Nicolai Ponomarev (URSS), Horst Richter (RFA), Jean-Pierre van Tieghem (Belgique), Hans-Christoph von Tavel (Suisse), Dora Vallier (France), Aleksander Wojciechowski (Pologne).

The Council of Administration was learned of the activities of the president, the secretary general and the treasurer that will be presented during the General Assembly. It designated to the Committee for Admissions: Harry-Paul Aletrino (Pays Bas), Per Drougge (Suède), Josep Corredor-Matheos (Espagne), Maria Torrente (Italie), Evelyn Weiss (RFA), Marie-Claude Volfin (France).

A discussion on proposal modification of statutes and rulings, presented to council members within a statutory timetable. These propositions emanated from a commission established spontaneously in 1978 at the General Assembly of Lugano, and include: Azra Begic (Yougoslavie), Neville Dubow (Section libre), Giuseppe Gatt (Italie), Ingela Lind (Suède), Rainer Michael Mason (Suisse)

Dora Vallier (France).

After hearing Dora Vallier, the council determined that no modifications would be accepted in its current form, and that the council would refer back to the commission to formulate its wishes. The modified articles are to be submitted to the Council of Administration, who will then determine by a majority ruling, whether or not to propose a vote on the matter by the General Assembly. During a second meeting, the commission now including Belhica Rodriguez (Venezuela), Vladimir Garicainov (URSS) and Laurent Lamy (Canada) presented the proposed revision. Three letters were read from Georges Boudaille (France), Pierre Restany (France), Guy Weelen (France) and a phone calls by Jacques Lassaigue (France) expressing reservations on the proposed reforms. Discussion ensued during which the first part of the first article was voted on unsuccessfully. The Board then determined that the current statutes foresaw answers to the questions surrounding eventual modifications facing the proposed changes. In conclusion, president Cirici requested a consultative commission to propositions for changes in the statutes and rulings, written in the same statutory terms. The commission, consisting of Mario Barata (Section libre), René Berger (Suisse), Alexandre Cirici (Espagne), Jacques Neuris (Belgique), Guy Weelen (France) Raoul-Jean Moulin (France), Jean-Pierre von Tieghem (Belgique) will submit a report during the next meeting of the Board.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To open the first session of the General Assembly, President Cirici welcomed the participants to Catalogne. He expressed gratitude to the authorities and bodies responsible for the meeting, particularly the gouvernement of Catalogne, the municipality of Barcelona, the Spanish minister of culture, the Miro Foundation, and the Catalan Association of art critics.

Since his appointment as president of AICA, Alexandre Cirici remarked that he was a participant to several international meetings, named vice-president of the international symposium on mass communications and cultural models organised by Unesco in Burgos. He presided over the international Congress of architecture critics in Buenos Aires. In addition to his international contacts, which permitted the re-establishment of contact with our Czechoslovakian friends, he re-committed himself to the spanish section. " During the General Assembly in Madrid " said Alexandre Cirici " the former authorities disbanded and a new board elected, presided over by Antonio-Bonet Correa, in an attempt to establish democratic statutes within a federal structure. Meanwhile, the Barcelona Catalan Association of art critics was founded, and joined to the spanish section of AICA. Responsibilities were equally divided and the vice-president of the spanish section is the president of the Catalane Association.

President Cirici then congratulated Dorothy Walker for the detailed program she submitted for the 1980 congress in Ireland. He spoke also of Mexican project in 1981 and announced officially the possibility of a congress in Spain in 1982 to take place principally in Madrid, Barcelona, Grenada, Sevilla...

After announcing the review "Theory and criticism" President Cirici defined his "image scientifique du critique": "that it may not profess to be a guide to artistic creation, but that it observe its genesis. That he does not "favor" that which is current, but that he accord respective weight to each. That he not judge from his podium, but he put everything in its place without mixing notions of good and bad. That he not dictate to the public what they should think or feel, but simply present the facts. The scientific critic whom I imagine would be true connaisseur of the phenomena of art, who would research, classify, read, interpret and even develop the pleasure of contemplation; who would communicate the results of his multiple research, in a way similar to that of other scientists".

In conclusion, President Cirici read the message of the General Director of Unesco, Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow "Unesco has always recognized the importance of AICA and its role in international cooperation", declared the General Director, who assures us of "the total support of Unesco" and encourages us to work together towards "programms which translate our common goals."

Jacques Meuris, accompanied by Fernande Duchateau-Meuris, general treasurer and adjunct general treasurer, presented a financial account: "we can say that the contributions are near the expected level... There are still many who haven't fulfilled their financial obligations; therefore our appeal still remains. The influx of money for 1978 stresses again the importance of Unesco's financial contribution... As concerns spendings, the majority goes towards administrative costs. The most significant increase covers the cost of rent for our general secretary; the rest is practically on the level of the status quo. The projections for 1979 are favorable." The financial statement was approved unanimously by the General Assembly excepting one vote.

As secretary general, Raoul-Jean Moulin paid homage to his predecessor, Guy Weelen, in whom he evoked "a great knowledge he had of our association, such that legitimate ambition he attributed to it, and for which he worked relentlessly".

Raoul-Jean Moulin emphasized that during 1978-1979, AICA maintained and expanded its relations with UNESCO, participating especially in numerous consultations on the kind of program and division of cultural development. Regarding the AICARC project, directed by Sven Sändtröm, UNESCO believes that the contract was validated and will be renewed. Recognizing the

lack of communications within AICA, Raoul-Jean Moulin summarized the activities of the 19 National sections among 46 who answered the general secretary's questionnaire.

The daily activity of the secretary general has suffered numerous difficulties. In addition to a rental increase, we have had to face a reduction of almost half of the Wildenstein endowment. Financial difficulties were compounded by a temporary displacement due to some work related to a transformation planned by our guest Foundation. Meanwhile, we had to change abruptly our secretary. Following Sophie Mayoux - who wanted to devote herself to her own work - came Palmira d'Ascoli who quickly was able to manage the work of the AICA. In closing, Raoul-Jean Moulin announced the preparatory works "mise à jour de notre annuaire". Since 1976, the AICA budget has suffered from costs of "révision et réimpression" which are a fool for work and communication. However, with UNESCO's help, we envision publishing a new "annuaire", conceived as an instrument of information and documentation. The secretary general's "rapport" was approved unanimously.

Silence was held in deference to the deceased members of AICA : Maurice Allemand (France), Francis Bouvet (France), Hélène Demorlane (France), Georges Isarlo (France), Jean Galotti (France), Basile Paleologue (Roumanie), Manuel Gasser (Suisse), Pierre-Henri Liairdon (Suisse), Carola Giedon-Welker (Suisse), Jos de Cruyter (Pays-Bas), Fanny Kelk (Pays Bas), Arthur van Scendel (Pays Bas).

The floor was then given to Dorothy Walker to present the outline and theme of the next Congress in 1980 in Ireland, at Trinity college, the oldest Irish university. It will take place from August 27 to September 6, 1980 in Dublin, and will include several excursions, visits to sites, museums and collections. The theme approved by the General Assembly is as follows : "International Influence on Art Communities".

During the second session, the General Assembly heard Andrée Paradis' report the commission for financial control. The verification of accounts was agreed. Harry-Paul Alutrino, reporting as the commission of admissions, communicated the list of members admitted to the secretariat after studying their portfolios. RFA : Thomas Gaehtgens, Wolfgang Rainer, Wolf Schön, Walter Vitt, Peter Winter ; Australia : Ian Walter Hocking ; Spain : Jose Ayllon-Torrente, Antonio Donet-Correa, Juan Manuel Bonet, Maria Luisa Borrás, Mercedes Lazo Franco, Daniel Giralt-Miracle, Francesc Miralles, Venancio Sanchez Marin, Francesc Vicens Giralt ; France : Robert Aribaut, Jacques Brutaru, Philippe Compte ; Italia : Vito Apuleo, Franco Miele, Silvana Sinisi ; Yougoslavie : Celic Stajan, Pologne : Stefan T. Morawski, Stanilaw Rodzinski, Suede : Ingemar Beck, Solveig Mansfeld-Hakauson, Sune Nordgren, Margareta Romdahl, Marianna Ström, Goran Södeström, Arne Törnquist.

Hastly, President Cirici invited the General Assembly to present its nominations for the election of a vice president.

The third session of the General Assembly began with the election of the vice-president. The " scrutin " occurred by nominal appeal. The operations of counting the votes took place under the presidency of Hans-Christoph von Tavel assisted by Theodora Rogan and Marie-Claude Volfin. Elected to the vice-presidency : Dorothy Walker (Irlande) 24 votes, Dan Haulica (Roumanie) 24 votes, Gillo Dorfles (Italy) 16 votes. Voters : 57, Expressed : 57.

A second votin addressed the renewal of the Board. Ten administrators were elected or re-elected : Perre Restany (France) 34 votes, Mario Barata (Section Libre) 33 votes, Richard Stanislawsky (Pologne) 32 votes, Maurice Pianzola (Suisse) 31 votes, René Micha (Belgique) 29 votes, Josep Corredor-Matheos (Espagne) 24 votes, Jappé (RFA) 22 votes, Vladimir Goriciarov (URSS) 22 votes, Jean Clair (France) 21 votes, Giuseppe Gatt (Italie) 21 votes.

Then various information on the activity and national section projects were to be communicated by their representatives, in the Général Assembly, concerning notably Belgium, USA, RDA, Switzerland, the USSR, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

The fourth and final session of the general assembly was devoted entirely to problems raised in the first two issues of " Theory and Criticism " included in the discussion were the following countries : Belgium, Canada, Spain, France, Ireland, Nederland, Pologne, RFA, Roumanie, Suede. Among corrections to be made according to Glusberg (Argentine) promotor and director of the publication, eliminating the use of the mention of " official organ of AICA ", bringing forth certain themes, and including the General Assembly's consultation of the Board's. Other questions concerned the financing of the review. Jorge Glusberg was to explain and justify his " démarche " before resigning as director. In conclusion, President Cirici called on the ensemble of the national sections to take action on these initiatives.

HOMMAGE TO JOAN MIRO

Tuesday, October 2, the 31 st General Assembly of AICA was honored to be invited to the University of Barcelona to attend a reception by Miro to the title of doctor Honoris Causa. President Cirici spoke on the reception, which was particularly moving as it recognized the irreplaceable presence of art today in the tradition and culture of Catalogne. In the name of AICA, our General Assembly gave a fraternal ovation to Joan Miro when he welcomed us to his foundation.

.../...

PRESENCE OF CATALAN ART

An exceptionnal program was planned by President Cirici to permit us to discover or rediscovered past and present expressions of catalan art. He served as our enlightened guide for the frescoes and sculpture of the Museum of Catalan Art. It was he who lead us through Barcelona searching for architecture imagined by Gaudi. Francesc Vicens showed us the collections and installations of the Miro Foundation of which the remarkable architecture was conceived by José Sert. Several galleries had organised receptions similar to their expositions

The day after the 31st general assembly which closed with a dinner offered by the municipality of Barcelona, its remains to thank warmly, through President Cirici, the responsible officials and all others who made it possible, particularly Maria-Jose Corominas and Rosa Queralt of the Catalan Association of Art critics.

ANNEXE

Among 46 national sections, 19 responded to our questionnaire regarding their activities. The 19 sections held meetings in Assembly. Through many efforts, several sections permitted AICA made their presence know through mass media. Radio and television communications exists in USA. Several expositions were exhibited in AICA compotition. The French section is discussing with the ministry of culture ideas for new artistic conditions. Among the number of Unions efforts, indicating in France a new barometre of prices for press an publication. United states is claming its copy rights arrangements. Finland is demanding improved working conditions for free lance critics. Poland has announced two conferences, one at Varsovie on the problems of contemporary polish art collections and the other on polish painting from 1945.

ATTENTION NEW HORARY OF AICA

Monday : 14h - 18h
Tuesday : 10h - 18h
Wenesday : 10h - 18h
Thurday : 10h - 12h