

AICA JAPAN CONGRESS 1998

Symposium "TRANSITION : Changing Society and Art "

■ Colloquium I *Memories and Visions : From Tradition to a New Identity*

Session 1 : *The Dialogue Between East and West*

France BOREL (Belgium)

ART AND TIME UNFOLDING, FACE TO FACE, ORIENT/OCCIDENT

Presenting a double play of mirrors.

Establishing a face to face, Orient/Occident (with an wink at André Malraux) concerning the particular relation which has been fixed between the past, present and future of the visual arts.

Relations by memory

How do we see artistic traditions whether they be official or officious, that they are picked up from folklore or from a public recognition, academic, that they are conscious or unconscious. How is the past lived, integrated or rejected, noticed, stolen, scoffed at or deliberately ignored by artists in their own approaches. The ruptures - *tabula rasa* - ceaselessness.

Random examples. The avant guard wants to deny the past, while the postmodernists play with quotations. The often unconscious persistence of iconography, forms, volumes or materials which belong to a country's time honored imaginary, a region, a culture. The relation with the landscape, the environment.

Actuality and projection in the future

A partial evaluation, partial and provisional actuality. A question of the circulation of images via the media and the standardization of information seen in artistic production. On the eve of the year 2000 what are the differences and the similitudes between a work from Berlin, Paris, New York, Tokyo or Pekin ? Cultural roots or collective amnesia ? Collective tendencies and individuel efforts more isolated. The omnipotence and impact of the big international models. A specific case : Japan (as seen by a European !) with an insular position and a universal curiosity.

End of the presentation with question points, expostulations and perspectives. Effects of internet on creativeness, the global circulation of images, the visual and intellectual stimulation though the mastery of new tools by creative people with new energy and the dynamic of pioneers. In a solitary *tête à tête*, parallel to a development of imagery via the screen as an intermediary is the vital emergence of new spiritualities.

The presentation will offer a written groundwork to which the audience can complete their knowledge, each according to his/her cultural adherence, from the Orient or Occident and their respective specialities.