



*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*

APRIL 1991

**Administrative Council**  
**February 9, 1991**

**Were present :**

BAEUMER Angelica (Austria)  
BEGUIRISTAIN Teresa (Spain)  
BERGER René (Switzerland)  
BERSTEIN Boris (USSR)  
BIRON Norman (Canada)  
BOWEN Denis (UK)  
BRIERE Valérie (France)  
CHAMBERT Christian (Sweden)  
CHERSON Samuel (Puerto Rico)  
FREDRIKSSON Inger (Sweden)  
GORIANOV Vladimir (USSR)  
de la GRANDVILLE Léone (France)  
HONNEF Klaus (Germany)  
KELLY Liam (Ireland)  
LASSALLE Hélène (France)  
LEENHARDT Jacques (France)  
LEVIN Kim (USA)  
MOROZOV Alexander (USSR)  
PEREZ RUIZ Rosé Antonio (Puerto Rico)  
PIETERS Din (Holland)  
POLEVOI Vadim (USSR)  
RESTANY Pierre (France)  
ROTTEMBERG Anda (Poland)  
SCHMEDLING Olga (Norway)  
STIPANCIC Branka (Yougoslavia)  
SUTTON Gertrud (Denmark)  
TIO BELLIDO Ramon (France)  
TOLENTINO Marianne (St Domingue)  
TUCHMAN Phyllis (Usa)  
van JOLE Marcel (Belgium)

LE CORVEC Fabienne

**Were excused :**

DE VREE Freddy (Belgium)  
EMILIO CARLOS Esther (Brazil)  
HAMMOCK Virgil (Canada)  
HEUSSER Hans (Switzerland)  
MEURIS Jacques (Belgium)  
MEYRIC HUGUES Henry (UK)  
KOSEEVIC Zelimir (Yougoslavia)  
GILDEMYN Marie-Pascale (Belgium)  
WITTLICH Petr (Czechoslovakia)

J. Leenhardt : welcomes everybody and excuses Mrs. Belgica Rodriguez for she can not attend the meeting because of her works, as well as Mr. Dan Haulica, President of the Rumanian section, out of Paris. He reminds the assembly of the nomination of Mrs. Haulica as Delegated ambassador attached to Unesco.

L. de la Grandville : proceeds in the lecture of the agenda (see annex).

### I Candidature for the Treasury

J. Leenhardt : excuses Mr. Jacques Meuris, unfortunately suffering. In the name of AICA, he addresses him, as well as at Mrs. Fernande Meuris, his thanks for the duty that they assumed for so many years.

He announces that Mr. Liam Kelly is the only candidate to this fonction and that he is supported by the Irish, the English and the Canadian sections.

Liam Kelly : confirms his candidature and reads his Curriculum vitae.

Following Jacques Meuris' wish to hand over his duties as soon as possible, the members of the Administrative council propose to nominate immediately the candidate for the Treasurer general fonction and, to be conformed with the usual procedures, to officially ratify his nomination during the next General Assembly.

Voting : unanimous yes

### II Report of the Secretary General (see annex)

P. Tuchman : asks what happened about the subscriptions she has paid for 7 members of the Yugoslavian section.

J. Leenhardt : reads the answer letter from the President of the Yugoslavian section (see annex).

A. Rottemberg : announces that the German section has renewed its financial support to 25 members of the Polish section, but that starting in 1992, each member wishes to pay his own subscription.

J. Leenhardt : thanks the American and the German sections.



S.Cherson : raises the question, already discussed in Canada, of the possible exclusion of the debtor sections.

J.Leenhardt : objects to this question, saying that this problem can be resolved only in General Assembly.

R.Berger : reminds the assembly that only the rules of procedure for an individual exclusion are mentioned in the statutes. The exclusion of a whole section would necessitate a modification of the statutes.

J.Leenhardt : thanks R.Berger for this "legal detail" but facing the gravity of such a decision ( and he is supported in this way by Ramon Tio Bellido and Kim Levin), he wishes to find a way to avoid this kind of sanctions. Therefore, he invites every member of AICA, when travelling or when meeting colleagues of the concerned sections, to insist on the importance to maintain AICA in its entirety and its objectives :

. the importance for each section to develop national and international activities

. the importance for each individual to justify of its adherence to the association by :

- an intellectual contribution
- a financial contribution, whatever small it is by reason of a difficult economic situation.

Consequently, before entering into exclusion or "suspension" procedures, as R.Berger suggests, J.Leenhardt proposes to wait sometimes and to rely on the willingness and the awakening of the concerned sections. He asks people to vote by a show of hands, the approval of this proposal.

**Voting : yes at majority ( 3 abstentions )**

The problem of circulation of the information is evoked by several members of the Administrative council, taking for exemple the case of the individual adherent forms. Each section had to fill it in and to send it back to the international Secretariat, in order to create a computerized list and to prepare a new directory. Mrs. de la Grandville confirms what has previously been said : the informations are sent to every responsible people without exception but it is important to distribute these informations to all the members at the right time.

She calls for comprehension and cooperation from the national section offices and thanks by advance all the Presidents of section for the attention they will give to this intervention.

J.Leenhardt : proposes that the Council vote on the report of the Secretary general.

**Voting : unanimous yes**

### III Report of the President

J. Leenhardt : announces the new decisions of Unesco concerning the NGO's. Their global budget having to be reduced, he reminds people that Unesco has decided to reserve its financial support for the associations able to :

- . demonstrate their intellectual vigour by conducting projects which are conformed to the Unesco's objectives
- . find a financial support other than Unesco's one for these cultural activities
- . contribute at the Unesco's visibility

Fortunately, our own subsidy is being maintained for 1992-1993 period, but some NGO's had already seen their subsidy reduced, and the future of the ones which will stay inactive and deaf at these new guidelines is in jeopardy.

J. Leenhardt informs us of the future creation of a World Center of Cultural Institutions, whose mission will be to get together NGO's and all cultural intervening parties having an important economic power (foundations, institutions, associations, publishers and so on), in order :

- . to develop mutual information on a thematic, geographical and sectorial level
- . to get together NGO's and others associations on a affinity basis around common projects
- . to defend the NGO's facing governmental institutions
- . to mobilize more important financial resources

This project, which is still in the consultation stage, demonstrates very well what are the requests of Unesco concerning the cultural NGO's :

- . to not retire within themselves
- . to widen their networks
- . to make their activities more visible and stronger
- . to find solutions for the financial support of their activities

Unesco itself has started on a dynamism, in which we can be part of and then have the advantage of this widening.

J. Leenhardt asks for a symbolic vote to approve this will of widening.

Everybody raises his hand.

P. Restany : reminds that the first widening to be done is within ourselves, and that, in the first place, we have to get together the best and the more creative people in our profession.



J. Leenhardt : thanks P. Restany who is, he says, in accordance with his own concerns. He agrees that AICA has, during the past years, retired on itself, but that these new possibilities of collaboration with others partners will bring a salutary change and will also enrich our own dynamism. It is not only a question of a bureaucratic "marriage", but a question of bringing together intellectuals, artists and professionals whose interests are close our own.

He suggests, for instance, a collaboration with the association " Art in nature", of which he is one of the founder member. It brings together (from Germany, Austria, Italy and France), museum keepers, philosophers, art critics, exhibition organizers, and it will help the realization of Gertrud Sutton's projects, who has been named in charge of the Commission Art/Nature during the Montreal congress. This example should be followed more often and everyone in his own country should develop contacts with other intellectuals.

#### IV Commissions' report

##### **1) Art/Nature Commission**

G. Sutton : says that her project is related to the existence of an Art Center for the Culture and the Nature, named "Tickon" ( Tranekaer Center for Kunst of Natur ), situated on one of the smaller islands of Denmark. It is composed of a park, a forest, lands, a lake and a house intended to receive artists during their works "in situ". The administrative council is composed of:

- an artist, member of the International Union of Artists,
- a museum director, member of ICOM,
- a representant of the Municipality council of the county,
- an art historian from Louisiana museum,
- a Pen Club writer,
- an English sculptor,
- Count Aklefeldt,
- Gertrud Sutton

A donation has been given by the State and will be completed by local help and private sponsors. Representatives from different artistic fields, landscape gardeners, ecologists, specialists of environment will join together in order to widen the dialogue and to encourage experiences profitable to art and nature.

In 1993, an international symposium, conjointly organized by the Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom, will put together artists and specialists. The visitors will be lodged in a recently build marina, close to the meeting place. Obviously, G. Sutton solicits the participation of art critics, members of AICA, and hopes for a financial support from Unesco.

J. Leenhardt : thanks G. Sutton for her report and compliments her for completing this operation by herself.

##### **2) East/West conference and 40th Anniversary celebration**

O. Schmeling : announces that the East/West conference, supported only by Unesco to this day, will take place in Oslo on November 22 and 23 1991. On the other hand, a financial support from the Foreign Office of Norway has been asked in order to hold this conference in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary celebration. This celebration should be held in Paris but the dates have yet to be confirmed.

## V AICARC

Hans Heusser being absent, J. Leenhardt reports on the situation of AICARC, which annual issue and distribution are still uncertain and difficult. It will be essential to define again the purpose of this bulletin during the next General Assembly.

But J. Leenhardt specifies that a special issue on "Art in Czechoslovakia in the sixties" is now being prepared, as well as an "History of art criticism in Great Britain", in collaboration with the U.K. section.

## VI National sections

### **German section**

National sections are now facing new kinds of problems, such as the united Germany. J. Leenhardt informs of the letter of P. Feist, President of the former East German section (see annex) and invites Klaus Honnef to speak.

K. Honnef : talks of the situation of these two sections, different in their statutes and objectives. Therefore, it has been decided by the West German section that the former members of the DDR section would be elected individually upon presentation of their record, as done in standard election procedures, after the hypothesis of a general integration was rejected by a vote. Only two members having been elected according to this procedure, the question of the statute of the other members is raised. It is reminded that some of them have been elected at the Full member statute by the Commission of admittance of AICA. J. Leenhardt thinks that it would be preferable, that with time and the normal activities of the critics, other candidatures should also be accepted. He previously wrote concerning this to President de Vitt.

R. Berger : reminds that no general solution can be looked for, but that an individual request can be examined and eventually accepted.

### **Lithuanian section**

J. Leenhardt : reads a letter of Lithuanian colleagues asking for the creation of a Lithuanian national section. He reminds that the AICA politic has been to encourage the multiplicity of sections within a country when cultural identity makes this creation useful. He reminds the case of Puerto Rico. He then invites the President of the Soviet section to talk.

A. Morozov : first talks of the solemn protest sent conjointly by AICA and Artist union to the government, following the Vilnius events. He pronounces himself in favour of the creation of an independant Lithuanian section.

J. Leenhardt : thanks A. Morozov and asks for a vote of support to the Soviet recommendation and a vote of approbation of principle permitting him to give a positive answer to the letter of the Lithuanian President (August 8, 1990). He wishes to present the new Lithuanian section during the next congress, after examination of the documents.



**Vote : unanimous yes minest one abstention**

The project of a motion written by A.Morozov is adopted.

#### **Brazilian section**

J.Leenhardt : talks about a letter of protest from the President of the Brazilian section, concerning an intervention, during the Toronto congress, of a member who had received no mandate to express himself in the name of the section. This intervention has been transcribed in the report of the congress and the President wants to make it clear that it was a personal point of view and that it was not reflecting the opinion of the section itself.

#### **New sections**

J.Leenhardt : points out the recent interest of certain countries toward our association, such as China and Egypt, as well as the awakening of Turkey.

One can add to this, the proposal for a new Pakistani section which would like to present its new members during the next congress.

#### **VII Congress**

##### **American congress**

K.Levin : first, announces the nomination of Merle Shipper as the organizer of the congress. The theme will be "Art, politics and multiculturalism". It will take place from October 10 to 15, 1991 and will be followed by an optional journey of 3 days in Pasadena and San Francisco. Final programme will be sent in May.

She also talks about the difficulties to find financial support and reminds people that there is no government help at all. But some receptions are planned in Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

J.Leenhardt : thanks K.Levin and asks for an approval vote for her report.

**Vote : unanimous yes**

##### **Austrian congress**

A.Bäumer : talks about the first elaborated projects for the Vienna congress which programme will be defined in June 1991. The general theme should be : "Art in the World : Center and Periphery". Visits of museums, galleries, artists studios and exhibitions have been planned in Vienna as well as journeys in Prague, Bratislava and Budapest. The congress should start on the first of June and should go on for about 10 days.

J.Leenhardt : thanks A.Bäumer for these good news and says further development is expected.



## VIII Other projects

### **Nordic project**

O.Schmedling : announces that a catalogue of the Art reviews in Norse and English languages will be published in June 1991. It will be supported by the Foundation of the Internordic culture and the Ministries of Culture of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

An Internordic conference on the various aspects of criticism through media, supported by the Nordic Commission on Art and crafts, will be held in Finland on August 14 and 15, 1991.

### **Polish project**

A.Rottemberg : talks about an exhibition she has organized at the occasion of a conference which will take place in Cracovia on May 28. This exhibition named "The unknown Europe", will mainly show young artists unknown in the international scene. A.Rottemberg solicits the support of AICA international for this project as well as participation of some members of the association in the jury.

J.Leenhardt : says that no one knowing the contents of this presentation for time being, it is accepted that it involves the Polish section only. He adds that it will be necessary from now on to inform the Bureau concerning the requests for an AICA support, in order to obtain, should the occasion arise, a preliminary agreement.

### **Soviet project**

V.Gorianov : briefly talks of the common project of the French and Soviet sections of an exhibition of contemporary French Figuration artists. This could be a "roving" exhibition in USSR and start during fall 1992 in Moscow. It could be the first "volet" of a series of exhibitions, and then the other national sections in Europe could take over the project.

### **Irish project**

L.Kelly : informs people of a symposium that will be held in Dublin in November 1991. It will be organized by the Scottish section and its name will be "The concept of the city as art". This symposium will get together several personalities of the world of Art and Literature and will be one of the cultural events consecrated to the city of Dublin. A future publication is planned.

J.Leenhardt adjourns the meeting.

# AICA

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11 rue berryer 75008 paris téléphone (1) 42.56.17.53

## BOARD MEETING - 9th february 1991

### AGENDA

- 1) following the resignation of the general Treasurer and the Treasurer assistant, appointment of a new treasurer,
- 2) report of intervening activities of the international Board and reports of the commissions,
- 3) congress in U.S.A. next 1991,
- 4) plans and programmes of AICA for this year,
- 5) diverse points.





## **Report of the Secretariat General for the Administrative Council of February 9, 1991**

According to the proposals adopted during the Canadian congress, the Secretariat General has addressed a notice on October 24th to the "silent" sections, about the exclusion measures they will face if no answers are given before 3 months. We have also asked our active but non-paying sections to clearly describe their difficulties so an agreement can be found. Having received only few answers up to this day, maybe this indicates that our message has not been clearly understood.

Mr. Herbert Fulton, a former member of the Australian section (which is apparently no active anymore after the death, several months ago, of its President, Mr. Graeme Sturgeon) wishes to confirm his adherence in AICA and he proposes to pay his own subscription. Further to Mr. Fulton's reaction, I have just received a note from Doctor Berger, who is Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Australian section. He affirms that the section has an official existence despite of the difficulties met by the Art critics in the exercise of their duties and he seems to have misunderstood our demand.

From India, Mr. Mulk Raj Anand proposes to create an "Honorary membership" category for the sections which can not pay their subscription.

From Pakistan, Mr. Moern Faruqi wishes to create, once again, a section, with the help of two others Art critics. We are waiting for the Curriculum Vitae of these two persons.

From Syria, Mr. Hassan Kamal has excused himself to not attend the Administrative council, because of financial reasons. But he ensures us of the artistic vitality of his country, without a word about our notice.

From Czechoslovakia, Mr. Petr Wittlich, recently elected President, explains us that new problems are faced since the country is in a new situation. But he waits for help from the Ministry of Culture.

From Turkey, Mr. Adnan Turani has request our patience for an additional year and he proposes to pay his own subscription.

From Spain, because of the help of Mr. Vicente Aguilera Cerni, all the problems seem now resolved and the subscriptions have been paid.

On the other hand, eleven countries have not answered yet : Angola, Costa-Rica, Israel, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal and Zaire.

In order to publish a new members directory with the help of our new computerized file, we have addressed to all the sections a form which has to be send back as soon as possible. We have received, up to this day, enough information to begin the work. It is true that this new software and the data acquisition process will both represent an important investment at once but, on the other hand, it will permit to bring information up to date immediately as well as to simplify and to reduce the cost for the making of future directories.

Following the decision of Unesco to send the subvention in Paris from now on, (which is conformed to what is done with others NGO), we have opened a Bank account in dollars at a Crédit Lyonnais agency.

Following a suggestion of Christian Chambert, we have advised ICOM about the difficulties met sometimes by Art critics when they want to photograph in museums and other institutions, which limit them to use the photographs, which are sometimes insufficient, reserved for the Press people. We have asked them if it was possible to make a departure from custom in our case.

The Secretaries General of ICOM, AIAP and AICA have met last December, on Unesco's initiative, with M.Orde Levinson, Committee director of Heynith Castel of Art Center, who coordinates the project of the creation of a Contemporary Art museum in Namibia. AICA should intervene as an Expert organization in the follow-up of this project. A series of papers should be also written about the choosen artists. This should be included in the portfolio which is already being elaborated.

Before concluding this report, I want to mention to all of you the new demands of Unesco regarding the NGO's activities.

The global budget given to the different Non Governmental Organizations for 1992/1993 will be reduced, which means that some organizations will suffer a smaller subvention. If we want to maintain ours, which is the case for the moment, we must adopted progressively a new politic:

- to find private supporting solutions
- to vary our activities by taking more into account the Unesco's objectives
- to show more visibility

At this condition, Unesco commits itself to support any project of quality within the framework of the Participation programm, which should be more developed.

Concerning this, I remind to some of you that these subsidies have nothing to do with the budget of the National commissions.

This help won't be enough of course but it will serve as a caution and will also permit to look for other kinds of financial support.

We do not feel penalized by these new requests, we think that it will be a good occasion to renew our activities and to summon up all our dynamism.

Léone de la Grandville  
Paris, February 1st 1991





THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MUSÉES

BC/91/110

Paris, le 4 février 1991

Mme Léone de la Grandville  
Secrétaire Générale,  
Association Internationale des  
Critiques d'art / AICA  
11 rue Berryer  
75008 PARIS

Madame la Secrétaire Générale,

Je vous remercie de votre lettre du 28 janvier 1991. Je comprends votre souci et celui des critiques d'art concernant les photos qu'ils désirent pouvoir prendre dans les musées pour faciliter leur travail.

Malheureusement un protocole d'accord comme vous le suggérez est difficilement envisageable car il se heurte à deux obstacles : celui des droits de reproduction, et celui de la sécurité dans les musées.

Espérant que vos comprendrez notre position, je vous prie d'agréer, Madame la Secrétaire Générale, l'expression de ma considération.

*Elisabeth des Portes*

Elisabeth des Portes  
Secrétaire Général p.i.

Léone de la Grandville  
Paris, February 1st 1991

Messrs. AICA  
attn: Léone de la Grandville  
Secrétaire générale  
11 Rue Derruyer  
75008 Paris

Praha, 8.12.1990

Dear Sirs,

first please kindly accept our apology for the delay of our reply concerning your kind letter of 24th October.

We are actually in a difficult situation. We supposedly belong to those national sections which try to be active (after keeping a long silence), but which don't have created the basical conditions for its activity. Frankly speaking, we rebuilt our national section composed of members of both our republics (Czech and Slovak) in accordance with the Federal State system, but we are not sure how to settle our contribution fees for AICA in a satisfactory form. Reasons are as following:

- 1) As living in the country which just started its transformation into the free market economy, we cannot ask in the moment all our members to pay the fee individually, because of a general lack of foreign currency here. If doing so by force, we reduce our member's choice on the limited number of persons, which are able to pay, regardless of their age, activity, respect etc. In other words, there is so accidental thing to have a foreign currency now in our country, that we cannot consider the above individual way of contribution as the democratic and objective one.
- 2) Therefore we asked our Ministry of culture (Czech republic) to help us as before with their request to our Federal ministry of finances to pay the fee for all the members (and our Slovak colleagues did the same) in order to overpass the critical period. (Here for your information - we have only two national ministries of culture, without the federal one, and only one federal ministry of finances, which is competent to solve the international duties. This means a kind of discrepancy which complicates the procedures.)
- 3) For above point 2) we still don't have any answer of ministries, perhaps because the government is just going to decide the next year budget and we are pressed to wait for the decision. We suppose that we are ready to tell you the result within a month.
- 4) At the same time we don't expect the positive answer of our minist.

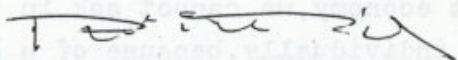


es, because our State is going to reduce its budget maximally (namely  
r culture), for the reason of not prosperous economy. If some help  
ll be given to us, so it shall be the partial or temporary help.  
ghow we actually need it.

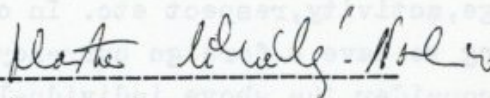
ar Sirs, we are extremely sorry being enabled to make the only pure  
atement of reality and not having any constructive proposal. On the  
her side we shall be much obliged if you can give us your comment  
d your advice. We would like stress that we are very happy with our  
turn to the membership of AICA and we shall do our best effort to  
lfill our duties without making troubles. However, the situation here  
rather difficult and needs some temporary solution.

th sincere thanks for your kind understanding beforehand, we are  
iting for your statement and remain truly yours,

Czechoslovak National Section



Petr Wittlich, president



Vlasta Čiháková-Noshiro, Secretary

6th January 1991

Mr . Jacques Leenhardt  
President of AICA  
11, rue Berryer  
F-75008 Paris

Copy  
to Mme. de la  
Grandville

Dear Colleague and President,

First and foremost I like to congratulate you wholeheartedly to your election as President of AICA, and to wish you a full success in your important task. At the same time I wish you all the best for 1991.

Being the last president of the National Section of the GDR I feel myself obliged to the case of all the members of our section and therefore to submit a problem to be decided by yourself and the Board of Directors of AICA.

After the unification of Germany the conditions for a national section in GDR do no longer exist. The National Section in the Federal Republic of Germany has decided against a merging of the two former sections. I would like to stress the fact that the members of AICA, who lived and worked in the former GDR were elected full members by different General Assemblies following the statutes of our association. That has been also the case for the new members, who were elected during the General Assembly at Toronto, 26th August 1990, and to whom we especially wish the chance to take part in the international cooperation of art critics under new circumstances. Each member of our section does correspond to the conditions of our statutes for membership, and to my knowledge no member by his or her behaviour has given a "serious motive" to be struck off the list of members which could only be done by the Board of Directors. On the contrary everyone wants to do his or her best for the aims of AICA.

If the National Section of Germany does not enable those members of AICA to join that section they should be made members of the Free Section to my opinion.

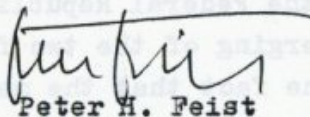


From the invitation to the Board meeting on february 9th, 1991, in Paris I do understand that the treasurer and the assistant treasurer of our association have resigned. Therefore, I do not know where to send the annual fees which our treasurer will collect and transmit when the situation will be cleared.

I ddeeply regret not being able to participate in the Board me\_eting in Paris owing to the expenses. I am sending my best regards to you and all my colleagues there.

For correspondence please use my home adress, because I went into my retirement and do no longer work at the institute, which will be liquidated in the near future moreover.

Please believe me sincerely yours.

  
Peter H. Feist

P.S.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. Léone de la Grandville, too.