



Welcome to 7th General Assembly of IAA Europe and Congress

14. – 17. 10. 2010 Bratislava



ART AFTER CRISIS



Introduction

The Slovak Union of Visual Arts (Slovak NC) - in cooperation with EC IAA Europe - organized a meeting of the Executive Committee, the Congress: Art after Crisis as well as General Assembly of IAA Europe during third week of October 2010 (Oct 13 – Oct 17). Gallery of the Slovak Union of Visual Arts welcomed 31 delegates and observers from 22 European countries (see list of participants below), and about 25 guests.

The General Assembly was preceded by two informal meetings of the Executive Committee of IAA Europe (October 13 & 14) where Christos Symeonides (President), Alex Meszmer (Vice-President) and Pavol Kral (Secretary) discussed the preparation of the Executive Committee meeting, Congress and General Assembly of IAA Europe, and possibilities of effective cooperation of the President, his Office and Secretary.

The Executive Committee meeting held in the Club of Artists on October 14 dealt with questions of budget for the Congress and GA in Bratislava, the Congress and GA agenda and IAA Europe website in first part, and with questions of strategy and procedure for payment of membership fees and the next Executive Committee meeting in second part.

After the Executive Committee meeting, all participants and most of the delegates arrived for a welcome drink and enjoyed the opening of an exhibition, “Lithuanian Contemporary Art” organized by the Slovak Union of Visual Arts in cooperation with NC Lithuania.

A Congress, “Art after Crisis,” was held on October 15 and was opened by the general director of the art section of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Mrs. Janka Motyčková, and Representative of the European Commission Delegation to Slovakia, Mrs. Mihaleje-Hromková. Present delegates discussed the current situation of artists in working groups, seeking ways of solving the most pressing problems, and conceived proposals for further resolution. In addition to these topics, comments on the initiative of the European Commission Green Paper, possibilities for mobility of artists and their works in Europe and the legal status of the artist in some countries were raised. At the 7th General Assembly of IAA Europe, held on October 16, specific recommendations and statements have been approved (see shortened version of minutes with conclusions below, or full version with transcript of recorded discussions).

Official meetings ended with a Good-bye dinner in the Club of Artists, with a music program and Slovak traditional meals and drinks.

On October 17, the Slovak NC organized group gallery visits to the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum and Gallery Zoya Museum. An unofficial sightseeing tour through the historical center and lunch concluded the IAA Europe session in Bratislava.

This event had a number of media responses: an interview about the Congress and GA in the morning broadcast of the most-watched commercial Slovak television, an interview for Slovak Radio, a short movie posted on Youtube, Facebook and IAA Europe blog (also available on DVD), an article in the BBK Krant newspaper (PDF and printed form) informing about the event and an article about the Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum.

List of delegates and observers

<i>Country</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Austria	Daniela Koweindl	IG Bildende Kunst
Belgium	Francis Desiderio	NC Belgium
Canada	April Britski	CARFAC
Czech Republic	Oskar Brůža	UVU ČR
Cyprus	Christos Symeonides	E.KA.TE.
Denmark	Anders Werdelin	Billedkunstneres Forbund
Estonia	Jaan Elken	Estonian Artists Association
Germany	Werner Schaub	IGBK Germany
	Thomas Weis	IGBK Germany
Iceland	Aslaug Thorlacius	Association of Icelandic Visual Artists
	Hrafnhildur Sigurdardottir	Association of Icelandic Visual Artists
Latvia	Janis Spalviņš	NC Latvia
Liechtenstein	Stephan Sude	BBKL Liechtenstein
Lithuania	Eugenijus Nalevaika	Lithuanian Artists Association
	Vaclovas Krutinis	Lithuanian Artists Association
Luxembourg	Jean-Pierre Adam	Association des Artistes plasticiens
	Nathalie Adam	Association des Artistes plasticiens
Monaco	Christian Giordan	Committee des Arts Plastiques
Netherlands	Rob den Boer	BBK Netherlands
	Hans-Joachim Schröter	BBK Netherlands
Norway	Grete Marstein	Norwegian Association of Arts
	Hilde Rognskog	Norwegian Association of Arts
Poland	Maria Moroz	Zwiazek polskich artystow plastykov
Slovakia	Pavol Král'	Slovak Union of Visual Arts
	Andrea Kozárová	Slovak Union of Visual Arts
Sweden	Anders Lidén	KRO
	Jóran Österman	NC Sweden
Switzerland	Alex Meszmer	Visarte
Turkey	Bedri Baykam	UPSD Turkey
	Selin Aylin Gulay	UPSD Turkey
United Kingdom	Sally Sheinman	AIR

Guests

Janka Motyčková	– Ministry of Culture Slovakia
Ľuba Mihaleje	– Hromková – European Commission Representation in Slovakia
Dagmar Srnenská	– Association of Theorist in Slovakia
Judita Csáderová	– Association of Slovak Professional Photographers
Michal Bogár	– Slovak Architects Association
Peter Heriban	– Board of Supervisors of SUVA
Vladimír Šimanovský	– Slovak Union of Visual Arts
Jozef Švoňavský	– Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity

.....and more

7th General Assembly of IAA Europe

Approval of the Agenda – **approved**

Financial Report by the Treasurer – **approved**

Costs of IAA Europe

Membership fees

Discussion about finance system

Proposals of Executive Committee of IAA Europe that National Committees will pay membership fees only to IAA Europe and IAA Europe's office of treasurer will transfer part of this sum to IAA World treasurer's office- **approved**

Auditors report

Reports on Activities

Office in Bratislava

Biennial of Drawing in Pilsen

Office of IAA in Paris

Palanga project report

NC report – Latvia

NC report – Iceland

NC report – Slovakia

Introduction of new members

Canada

Netherlands

United Kingdom (candidate)

Approved recommendations

Suggestions for European Countries – **approved**

The IAA card is a certification of professional working artist status given to anybody that qualifies to those norms, by each National Committees', specialized commissions, in our International organization.

There are many artists in Europe, that have the IAA card and that cannot get a visa to travel to several western countries. That creates a very unfair assault to freedom of expression as well as to the concept of fair competition in the field of art.

We suggest therefore that IAA Europe should suggest to the European Community, that any artist carrying a valid IAA card, should be granted an automatic visa by the country to be visited within the E.U.

This proposal is given to the General Assembly for being voted in order to have IAA Europe give this urgent demand to the members of the E.U. Parliament, as a law proposal that will open the path of entry of the artists, to the country of their choice. This "Free circulation" should also include preferably all intellectual workers.

MOTIVES :

Although we can never be sure at all this law proposal will pass in the E.U. Parliament, even if it's returned, still by making this proposal valid:

- 1. The IAA Europe will have the relief of having put pressure on this field, in order to have equal opportunity of work for every artist in Europe.*
- 2. It will be up to the politicians to decide that important matter after they consult lawyers, immigration officers, sociologists, historians and concerned ministries such as interior & exterior.*
- 3. Even if this law proposal does not pass, the fact that this issue will be talked in depth between the politicians and the IAA for the first time, will leave its marks as a step for making better effort to solve this cultural and political issue.*

In a world where everybody talks about cultural diversity and exchange, the IAA Europe, should remember that all its members cannot truly participate to this call.

Against Censorship – approved

The new policies evolving around the political context of the world, should acknowledge all the current information and fresh data in order to be able to take some serious political action. Every country should be assessed with the latest news coming from it.

The problem of state censorship on art works may they be paintings, sculptures, videos, films or any mixed media as well as theater plays is unacceptable within the borders covered by IAA Europe.

Also the freedom of expression of journalists and writers and all media intellectual workers should be kept safe and intact. It is also not acceptable to have those media intellectual workers jailed for any intellectual reason.

Besides obvious human rights issues, such an act brings down a very unfavorable climate towards the spirit of the freedom of art and culture as well as its free and healthy development.

The proposal is to bring with this resolution, to make an open call to the E.U. Parliament with also cooperation with UNESCO, to take political actions against any state within IAA Europe that would be quality of such offenses against art, artists, writers and all intellectual workers without any exception.

Cultural / Political Conflicts – approved

Several incidents that have happened in Europe as well as elsewhere in the last months and years, have shown rising conflicts around the concept of democracy especially between religious demands on law and lifestyles and those of secular laws and lifestyles, within the borders of democratic nations.

This proposal is to bring a resolution that has the objective to find an acceptable basic mutual understanding in this rising atmosphere of conflict between different cultures and the ensuing clashes. The resolution is to bring in a basic statement regarding this actual situation:

"When conflicts arise between different lifestyles cultures and religions, it has to be accepted that all lifestyles are 'untouchable' and 'sacred' as one another, not just religious ones. The rights of an artist or a contemporary secular democratic person are also as 'untouchable' as the rights of any believers to any religion".

Five proposals by working group Austria, Cyprus, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey:

1/ List of institutions that accept IAA card, sharing info – approved

- to prepare a list of institutions in each country that accepts the IAA card
- to share this information on the IAA Europe website
- NCs try to expand the list of institutions where the IAA card is accepted, in cooperation with their appropriate authorities

2/ Continue with the process started by the 1st European Convention of Visual Artists – approved

We recommend all National Committees of IAA Europe try to continue with the process started by the 1st European Convention of Visual Artists, and the White Book of the European Convention, by sharing information about current social and legal rights of artists in European countries, and examples of how they solve specific difficulties. We need examples from other countries to find better solutions.

3/ Support professional artists, transparent competitions – approved

We recommend on behalf of IAA Europe, that national political authorities (and the European Commission) support professional artists rather than amateurs, with respect to public spaces and buildings, spiritual spaces, educational centers etc. and that artists involved in public art projects should be chosen by a transparent competition, which will lead to higher quality work.

4/ Special system of social insurance for artists – approved

We recommend on behalf of IAA Europe to national governments (and the European Commission) to respect that being employed in the cultural sector is often less secure compared to other professions, and that a special system of social insurance for artists is necessary.

5/ Contact the EU Commissioner for Culture in relation to the Green Paper – approved

We recommend that the Executive Committee of IAA Europe contact the European Commissioner for culture, A.Vassiliou (and try to meet with her or members of her cabinet) in relation to the Green Paper.

Proposal by the working group on Mobility – approved

- *build up an online IAA Europe information tool, referring to and cooperating with already*
- *existing tools, that offer information on mobility of artists and artworks as well as good*
- *practice examples on the national level,*
- *improve cooperation between IAA Europe as well as between National Committees and other European and International associations dealing with mobility,*
- *create better relationships with the embassies and especially with ministries of foreign affairs and international cultural institutes for assistance concerning the transport of artworks*
- *internationally,*
- *update the IAA customs certificate referring to the UNESCO agreements (“free flow of works by living artists”), to promote them at the national and international level and to provide reliable information for the arts sector as well as for the customs officers.*

Proposal by working group Communication – approved*Questions:*

- *How do we want to be seen?*
- *What is the content of the information coming from IAA Europe?*

Directions of the information

- *IAA – NC’s*
- *IAA – individual artists*
- *IAA – public / press*
- *IAA – politics / EU*

The website and other communication tools should be used as a “database of issues” and it would be ideal to create an engaged network. Artists can get information from different websites, but very often the websites of National Committees are only in the country’s language. Perhaps a compilation of brief information in English in one place would be helpful. It would be useful to start building a pool of basic information, such as challenges of artist mobility.

Steps to be taken:

- *update website*
- *update / work on a new customs certificate and information about the IAA card and the*
- *institutions that accept it*
- *list of IAA activities / achievements*
- *list of existing documents and information for NC’s and individual artists*
- *building up a community using the website and blog, Facebook and Twitter*
- *during the meeting in Berlin in June 2010 a working group for the new website was founded*
- *(Rob den Boer, Alex Meszmer). This working group can be taken as a starting point, ideally with about 4-5 participants to develop this further.*

Open questions:

- *who will do the editing work?*
- *how can we finance this?*

Latvian recommendation corrected by Grete Marstein – approved

The visual artists are individual creators, whose input in the cultural space of Europe is unique and permanent. The unique creative process must not be adjusted to industrial production or business models. The General Assembly of IAA Europe appeals to the countries of IAA Europe to cooperate with creative and professional organizations when working on tax legislation and social protection.

Second Latvian proposal, corrected by Anders Werdelin – approved

In art education, the significant leaders should be professional artists. The General Assembly of IAA Europe appeals to cooperate with member states' creative organizations when working on Professional art education policies.

Third and fourth Latvian proposals with comment by Jaan Elken – approved

The General Assembly of IAA Europe appeals the governments of the member states, to support and stimulate the values of national culture as unique – in visual arts, music, literature, architecture, multimedia, theatre and cinema. Cooperation with the creative unions of each country guarantees the development of cultural environment and democracy.

The General Assembly of IAA Europe appeals to the member states to take part and support the mutual mobility of European creative organizations, to stimulate exchanges of interdisciplinary and multimedia cooperation forms for strengthening the variety, openness and creativity of European cultural space.

Fifth Latvian recommendation – approved

The General Assembly of IAA Europe asks the member states to work on creating mechanisms for the development of social protection for young artists talents.

Redesign of IAA Europe website – accepted and approved

The new website is found at: <http://www.iaa-europe.eu/>

Web structure:

- *General information*
- *Aims*
- *Activities*
- *Information*
- *Members (need to update and correct e-mails)*
- *Links*
- *Blog (for the latest news)*

Website will be under supervision of the Executive Committee.

New communication tools: Facebook and Twitter

Discussion – consideration of the possibility of membership for art associations in countries without an umbrella organization of visual artists.

At an international Executive Committee meeting, a new associate membership category was proposed:

In addition to National Committees the Association may admit associations or organizations in the field of art as Associate Members. Associate Members do not have voting rights. They apply to the Executive Committee who shall inquire whether or not the applicant complies with the aims of the Association and its criteria of democratic structure. A two-thirds majority is required for a new associate member to be accepted.

If more than one national association claims the position as a national committee in IAA, the Executive Committee should investigate the structure of these associations and choose the one that complies the most with the IAA Statutes. If the EC cannot reach a decision, the EC will follow the procedure in paragraph 4.4.4. (Should the Executive Committee find itself unable to reach a decision relating to an application for membership, or for associate membership, it may seek the guidance of the General Assembly at its next meeting. The General Assembly shall then vote by secret ballot. A two third majority of those present and entitled to vote is required for admission of a new member or associate member.)

Membership proposals will be sent to the Executive Committee. A working group will collect all proposed amendments and go through the statutes to check the consequences of any proposed changes, as well as continuity with other articles. The Executive Committee will prepare a recommendation and forward to all National Committees three months before the General Assembly. All proposals have to be discussed at the General Assembly.

IAA ID cards update

Final version of IAA card design – back and front side

- *In past the cards were printed by office in Paris. This is not possible anymore*
- *In future it should be the responsibility of the National Committees to print their own ID cards*
- *The way of production and the quality of printing is up to National Committees – according to their budgets, ideally, it will be wallet sized, and plasticized*
- *Both sides – national and international must follow the same standard*

Future plans for IAA

Information about Haiti project, project Artists in Labs

Information about concept of Experts' Workshop on Social Security in Berlin, ECA communication and questions of mobility of artists

Next General Assembly

The next GA will be prepared with a symposium by the German NC in Berlin – approved

Office in Bratislava – approved

Proposal to have the Office of IAA-Europe in Slovakia until next General Assembly with 2000 Euro expenses a year.

On behalf of Executive Committee IAA Europe let us please thank all who contributed to preparation and conduct of event and all present delegates and observers for their active participation in the Congress and General Assembly.

Executive Committee of IAA Europe

Members:

Christos Symeonides	- President, NC of IAA in Cyprus
Alex Meszmer	- Vice-President, NC of IAA in Switzerland
Aslaug Thorlacius	- Treasurer, NC of IAA in Iceland
Pavol Kral	- Secretary, NC of IAA in Slovakia
Anders Lidén	- Coordinator for Europe, NC of IAA in Sweden
Francis Desiderio	- NC of IAA in Belgium
Vaclovas Krutinis	- NC of IAA in Lithuania
Maria Moroz	- NC of IAA in Poland

Advisers:

Werner Schaub	- NC of IAA in Germany
Stephan Sude	- NC of IAA in Liechtenstein

Webmaster:

Rob den Boer	- NC of IAA in the Netherlands
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 ***select from many cordial responses to the event:***

... First of all, I have to say thank you for organizing the GA and Congress in such a short time. I think you have done a great deal of work in hosting IAA Europe in Bratislava ... (Alex, Oct 18, 2010)

... You did a fantastic job, everything was very well organized, I enjoyed the city too and of course your fantastic building! ... (Rob, Oct 18, 2010)

... The organization was just perfect ... (Francis, Oct 19, 2010)

... Bratislava has shown itself as a warm and friendly place ... (Stephan, 19.10.2010)

... We all left our heart in Bratislava ... (Christos, Oct 20, 2010)



Andrea Kozarova, IAA Europe Office Bratislava



Minutes: *Andrea Kozarova, Slovak Union of Visual Arts (IAA Europe Office)*

Proofreading: *April Britski, CARFAC*