

Annual Report Sculpture Network 2023

Activities of the association to fulfill the statutory objectives

Established in 2004, Sculpture Network stands as Europe's premier platform for contemporary sculpture. As a non-profit organization, our mission is to actively promote and support sculpture while fostering connections among individuals and institutions passionate about three-dimensional art: artists, art educators, sculpture parks and museums, galleries, curators, collectors, suppliers and art enthusiasts.

With a total membership of 720 individuals as of December 31, 2023 across 32 countries, Sculpture Network maintains a strong presence throughout Europe, boasting an extensive network that proves invaluable in forging partnerships for events and collaborations.

Our website, www.sculpture-network.org, serves as a dynamic information portal enriched by an online magazine and an events calendar featuring informative, engaging, and entertaining contributions from the global sculpture community.

Throughout 2023, our focus remained on expanding our range of events, both live and online. Central to Sculpture Network's ethos are face-to-face encounters in informal, open atmospheres - a rarity in the art world - that foster meaningful connections. The increased number and reach of live events were made possible by our dedicated new and longstanding country coordinators.

Moreover, 2023 marked the return of our flagship event, the International Forum, with the central theme "Sculpture and Climate Emergency" threading through many of our activities throughout the year.

1. Sculpture Network Events 2023

Dialogues 5 countries - 18 events - 298 participants

Dialogues are local events designed for both members and the general public, offering professionals and enthusiasts of contemporary sculpture new insights and a platform for dialogue and exchange. In 2023, a total of 298 people attended 18 events held across Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, and the UK. These events successfully brought together artists, curators, and art lovers, fostering connections and sharing knowledge.

The Dialogues events aim to engage a diverse audience, providing a deeper understanding of contemporary sculpture. They serve as a valuable platform for networking, discussion, and the exchange of ideas within the sculpture community. By offering a dynamic and interactive environment, these events have significantly contributed to the contemporary sculpture community, enhancing learning and collaboration.

The following 18 Sculpture Network Dialogues took place in 2023:

- 04.03.2023 Dialogue in La Comella (Tarragona), Spain
Guided visit to the Comella Sculpture Park, Sculpture and Nature (CEN), by artist Rufino Mesa
- 10.03.2023 Dialogue in Gare Maritime in Brüssel, Belgium
Guided visit by director to Sculptura #1, in the Monumental Halls of Gare Maritime

- 25.03.2023 Dialogue in Het Depot Wageningen, The Netherlands
"Sculpting Dreams" in Wood and Bronze
- 25.03.2023 Dialogue at Art Museum Schloß Derneburg, Lower Saxony, Germany
Guided visit through the Sculpture Park and the Leiko Ikemura Exhibition
- 26.04.2023 Dialogue at the European Patent Office Munich, Germany
Exclusive guided tour through the collection of the European Patent Office Munich
- 06.05.2023 Dialogue in L'Olivar (Ventalló, Alt Empordà), Spain
Guided visit to L'Olivar: sculpture park and the Crypt by artist Enric Pladevall
- 10.05.2023 Dialogue at XTANT Fibra 2023 in Palma de Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain
Enjoy textile arts and crafts at XTANT Fibra 2023 together with its founders
- 27.05.2023 Dialogue in Berlin, Germany
A Sculptural Discourse on Conceptual Art: Two inspiring gallery visits with works by artists Renata Lucas at Neugerriemschneider and MK Kaehne at Semjon Contemporary
- 10.06.2023 Dialogue at Henry Moore Studios & Gardens in Perry Green, UK
Visit Henry Moore's former home, studios and sculpture gardens in the beautiful countryside, and introduction by Sebastiano Barassi, Head of Henry Moore Collections & Programmes
- 18.06.2023 Dialogue at Museum Beelden aan Zee, Scheveningen, The Netherlands
Enjoy the exhibition Henry Moore by the Sea at Museum Beelden aan Zee with an inspiring lecture by art historian Hans van der Gaarden
- 27.07.2023 Dialogue at SüdpART, Munich, Germany
Experience SüdpART - Munich Nature Art Biennale with Lore Galitz, artist and curator
- 02.09.2023 International Dialogue at NordArt 2023, Büdelsdorf, Germany
Tour of the exhibition NordArt 2023, showcasing 200 international artists at a former iron foundry
- 09.09.2023 Dialogue at the Summer Exhibition Am Seegarten, Kirchmöser, Germany
Country Escape from Berlin to the Summer Exhibition "Am Seegarten" in the Old Gunpowder Factory on the Shores of Lake Plauen
- 11.10.2023 Dialogue in Hannover, Germany
Visit to the exhibition of Auke de Vries in Kunstraum Friesenstrasse, and artist lecture at Kunstverein Hannover
- 21.10.2023 Dialogue in Buxheim, Bavaria, Germany
Visit the exhibition of the Scuola di Scultura in Kartause Buxheim
- 11.11.2023 Dialogue in Barcelona, Spain
Guided visit to Espai Subirachs with Judit Subirachs-Burgaya, daughter of Josep M. Subirachs, a highly acclaimed Catalan sculptor
- 01.12.2023 Dialogue in Antwerp, Belgium
Guided tour of the collection Panamarenko and Gordon Matta Clark in M HKA and gallery visits including artist talk with Leon Vranken
- 16.12.2023 Dialogue at Museum Voorlinden, The Hague, The Netherlands
Guided tour to the solo exhibition of Anselm Kiefer "Bilderstreit" and visit to 'Mobiles, work in Progress' at the artist studio of Yke Prins

The Online Club 9 events – 357 participants

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched a series of online events covering various topics to strengthen the European sculpture community. These Online Club events provided a platform for members to engage in activities and discussions, continuing even after the pandemic due to their success. The Online Club events transcend national borders, enabling artists, curators, and art enthusiasts to network and exchange ideas with like-minded individuals globally. This virtual format eliminates the need for travel, making it a sustainable form of networking.

Curator Anne Berk moderated the events, which were held on the Zoom platform. A total of 357 participants attended the sessions, which were structured into three parts: Introduction by curator Anne Berk providing an introduction of Sculpture Network and the evening's topic, one to three keynote speaker presentations from across Europe and a final networking part where participants engaged in small group discussions, with approximately five participants per group.

Three of the Online Clubs were specifically dedicated to introducing the topic of the upcoming XV International Forum.

In 2023, the following 9 Sculpture Network Online Clubs took place:

- 13.02.2023 Art for the People with Anna Tilroe (NL) renowned critic and curator.
- 13.03.2023 Art for the People (2) with Stella Ioannou, Director of Lacuna Projects, (UK) (Sculpture in the City, London) and artists Matthias Bildstein (AU) and Philippe Glatz (CH) from the collective Bildstein/Glatz.
- 17.04.2023 The Legacy with Miriam Windhausen (NL) former head of collections and independent advisor and Robin Vermeersch (BE), artist and grandson of the renowned artist José Vermeersch.
- 08.05.2023 Sculpture and Climate Emergency - Introduction to Sculpture Network XV. International Forum in Málaga with Yke Prins, Board member and organizer of the Forum, artist Caroline Kampfraath (NL) and Marek Wolynski (PL/UK) curator and coordinator of Sculpture Network.
- 05.06.2023 Sculpture and Climate Emergency 2 with Maria Gracia de Pedro (ES) curator of Sculpture Network International Forum and 5 member artists who highlighted their projects on sustainability and climate change. Bert Schoeren (NL), Gabriela Drees Hotz (DE), Jan Kuck (DE), Eugen Schutz (DE) and Enric Pladevall (ES)
- 03.07.2023 Eco Artventure with Tineke Schuurmans (NL) curator of the Verbeke Foundation (BE) and Director and curator Mieke Conijn (NL) from IJsselbiennial (NL)
- 04.09.2023 The Legacy of Henry Moore with Laura Barlow, Senior Curator, Collections and Research at the Henry Moore Sculpture Gardens and Studios and the artist Mirko Zrinščak (HR).
- 13.11.2023 Moved by the Wind with the scientist-turned-artist Theo Jansen (NL) and artist and curator Reta Reinl DE fromt Bewegeter Wind, an International Wind Festival
- 18.12.2023 "Sculpture and Sustainability" Workshop with by Caitlin Southwick (NL) Founder & Executive Director of Ki Culture

These events have proven to be an invaluable addition to our community, fostering connections and enhancing the exchange of ideas across the European sculpture community.

Sculpture Network XV International Forum: Sculpture and Climate Emergency

After a 6-years break, our International Forum returned in 2023. Held in Málaga, Spain from October 5-7, 2023, the event brought together over 60 curators, artists, and art professionals. Curated by Amparo López Corral and Maria Gracia De Pedro, esteemed Spanish Curators, the Forum featured guided tours of the Centre Pompidou Málaga and Museo Picasso Málaga, enlightening lectures, round table discussions, and a workshop focused on sustainable art practices.

Highlights included captivating artist presentations and ample networking opportunities. The Forum's central theme was exploring sustainable practices in contemporary sculpture, aiming to stimulate a vibrant exchange of ideas and foster collaboration among participants.

We gratefully acknowledge our cooperation partners: Centre Pompidou Málaga, Museo Picasso Málaga, Málaga City Hall, Ki Culture, and the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Málaga. A big thank you goes also the Board member Yke Prins and office team member Zeynep Ece Sahin Korkan for the organization.

2. Sculpture Network Website

In the course of 2023, we opted for a new content management system for our website provided by Zootonic, which was successfully introduced on 07.01.2023 with the migration of the database. By using efficient IT standard solutions and processes, the running costs for the maintenance of the systems will be noticeably reduced in the future.

On our website www.sculpture-network.org, we are thus offering our wide range of information on contemporary sculpture, creating a new layout with greater convenience and clarity. The range of services was systematically expanded during 2023.

Newsletter and Online Magazine

In its online magazine and newsletters, Sculpture Network e.V. consistently offers a window into the world of three-dimensional art, featuring reports on international fairs, exhibitions, interviews, and essays. Throughout 2023, nine newsletters were distributed globally every six weeks, reaching approximately 18,000 readers pro edition and amassing over 39,000 fans and followers across social media platforms.

The audience for these publications spans both the general public and professionals in the art sector, including artists, art students, curators, gallery owners, museums, architects, and collectors. Content was curated by our newsletter editor, Elisabeth Pilhofer, aligning closely with themes explored in our flagship event, the International Forum. The newsletters prominently featured discussions on "Sculpture and Climate Emergency," spotlighting the Forum, its collaborators, speakers, and member artists whose work addresses environmental challenges.

The magazine serves as a vital platform for information and inspiration, showcasing emerging trends, promoting our events, and spotlighting our members. It also provides a venue for emerging writers worldwide to publish and connect with the arts community. Additionally, the magazine includes detailed reports on our live and online events, ensuring that our global audience remains engaged and informed.

The Sculpture Network newsletters in 2023 were made possible with the support of the Waldemar-Bonsels-Stiftung to whom we extend our heartfelt thank you.

Artist profiles: over 700 artists from 32 nations

Sculpture Network artist members present photos of their artworks, their CVs and exhibition dates. The new website made it easier to update the profile in two languages and customize it with preferred information such as social media channels. Gallery owners, curators and collectors regularly use this database to discover new artists.

Artworks: over 9,000 works

On our artwork page, you can search for and discover artworks created by the artists featured on our website. We are currently developing new filter options that will allow you to refine your search by criteria such as material, technique, style, and theme. Every artworks can be represented with several photos and a description text.

Locations: 300 places for three-dimensional art

Visitors to the website will find museums and parks specialising in sculpture, sculpture trails, galleries, open-air exhibitions, biennials and relevant publications throughout Europe. Sculpture Network members are highlighted. In addition, service providers from the following sectors can be found here: Foundries, art suppliers, quarries, model making companies, insurance companies, logistics companies, web service providers and graphic designers. Over 20 companies offer their products and services here.

Calendar of events: ca. 200 published events

Exhibitions, openings, workshops, conferences and art fairs - a unique and up-to-date source of information on sculpture events throughout Europe, researched and updated daily by our editorial team.

Calls for tenders / opportunities (members only): ca. 150 published calls for tenders

In 2023, more than 150 new tenders were published, and on average there are about 20 open tenders in this database. Our editorial team selects relevant tenders worldwide and updates the list regularly. This can be filtered according to certain criteria: Competitions, awards, artist-in-residency programmes, calls for public art, etc.

3. Sculpture Network communication

One of the main goals of Sculpture Network is to raise awareness of the uniqueness and social relevance of three-dimensional art and to increase the perception and acceptance of contemporary sculpture among the general public. Communication and public relations are therefore central pillars of Sculpture Network's work.

In 2023, one focus was also the further expansion of our social media work. Increased posting by our Social Media Manager Zeynep Ece Sahin resulted in 1000 extra followers, bringing in new members via Instagram. Our old rubrics #newmember and #memberthursday were as the previous year very well received and made a nice contribution to the spread of contemporary sculpture on social media. Furthermore, we focused in the promotion of our events and posted also nice gallery afterwards.

A cooperation was agreed with the internationally renowned sculpture symposium Tuwaiq Sculpture, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. Tuwaiq Sculpture is the largest stone symposium in the world, bringing together local and international artists to create public artworks in a live

environment. Through an interactive programme of workshops, school visits and lectures, Tuwaiq Sculpture brings together diverse communities and promotes cultural exchange.

We currently use the following channels to promote contemporary sculptures:

Website unfortunately website statistics for the year 2023 are not available

Newsletter approx. 18.000 Subscribers (2 languages: English, German)

Social Media Over 39,000 (+1,000) fans and followers

Direct Mailings approx. 40 mailings about our events and offers

4. Finances / Legal status

The annual financial statements of Sculpture Network e.V. as of 31.12.2023 show a slightly decrease in sales revenues from EUR 116,294 (2022) to EUR 113,344 due to a decline in membership. The economic environment of inflation as well as the demographic development of the membership has essentially led to this decrease. Costs for renewing our ICT-system, higher operating expenses for projects and events as well as increased personal expenses led to a net profit of regular business activities of EUR 3,790 (previous year EUR 19,530).

The financial year 2023 closes with a balance in the bank accounts of EUR 44,190 (previous year EUR 68,049). This cash balance is offset by provisions and liabilities of EUR 17,395. The solvency of the association was guaranteed at all times. Total assets decreased from EUR 80,382 to EUR 52,388, mainly as the reserve for re-investment (EUR 39,066) was used for investments in the new website and for general ICT investments.

As at 31.12.2023 the association has sufficient equity capital of EUR 24,992 (previous year EUR 60,269). The decrease in equity capital mainly concerns the use of the reserve for re-investments (EUR 39,066). The purpose-built reserve amounts to EUR 3,411 and the free reserve to EUR 21,581.

The Executive Board made prudent decisions about expenditure. The net profit for 2023 and the liquid assets allow the Board to solidly finance the necessary investments for the operations and projects in 2024 from its own cash flow.

The Board of Directors has decided on the appropriation of profits in accordance with the tax ordinance for non-profit associations.

The annual accounts for the 2023 financial year were audited by Ms Franziska Büttner, tax consultant, and Ms Karin Lang, both members of the association. The auditors were elected for two years by the general meeting on 14.12.2021. Their report on the 2023 audit is dated 23.07.2024 and ends with the proposal to discharge the Board for the 2023 financial year.

The Berlin tax office has recognised the annual financial statement 2022 and the annual report 2022 with a new notice of exemption 2022 dated 26.09.2023 and thus confirmed the non-profit status of the association.

5. Supporters / Promoters

Special thanks go to the Waldemar Bonsels Foundation, which also provided us with office space and technical equipment as part of a structural grant. Even though a large part of the work had to be done in a home office, the availability of an office and a postal address at Adelzreiterstraße 7, 80337 Munich was essential for the work of the association.

In addition, the Waldemar Bonsels Foundation supported the Coordinators.

Funding from another foundation was called up financing the Emerging Sculptor Award (2024) and the International Forum in Málaga.

6. Members

As of 31.12.2023, the association had a total of 720 members in 32 nations. The members consist of artists, art professionals, institutions/organisations, service companies (art-related products and services) and friends of sculpture network.

Sculpture Network was able to gain a total of 64 new members in 2023.

The association currently offers the following membership categories at unchanged prices:

Category	Annual membership fee (in EUR)
Artist	120,-
Artist (reduced, students)	80,-
Artist (partner association ¹)	80,-
Institutions	220,-
Service provider companies	220,-
Friends of Sculpture Network	150,-

7. Employees and volunteers

In 2023, Sculpture Network was again largely supported by volunteers and part-time staff.

Employees

The following people worked part-time for sculpture network in 2023:

- Zeynep Ece Sahin Korkan, Junior Project Manager
- Isabel Bernheimer, Project Manager (from 01.03.2023 until 31.12.2023)
- Ilaria Specos, Project Manager (in maternity leave until May 2024)
- Julia Weiß, Project Manager until April 2023 (in maternity leave until April 2024)

Freelancers who worked for Sculpture Network in 2023:

- Antri Koumido, Art agenda
- Iris Heist, Art Agenda
- Riccarda Menger, Accounting
- Elisabeth Pilhofer, Newsletter
- Christina Würtenberger, Calls for Opportunities

Volunteers

Sculpture Network has a very active network of volunteer supporters:

- Sybille Hajek (translations)
- Sophie Kulik (translations)
- Willy Hafner (Author)
- Helmut Pütz (Board assistance)
- Blake Ward (Website and Board assistance)
- Kris Demuelenaere (Website and Board assistance)
- Alice W. Bakker (website)
- Paul Funcken (website)

Coordinators

Sculpture Network is supported by coordinators representing the organisation in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Denmark and Croatia. They organise the Dialogues event series in their region and are highly committed to Sculpture Network and its goals.

Our coordinators in 2023 were:

- Susanne Ahrenkiel, Denmark
- Marina Bauer, Croatia
- Neus Bergua in Barcelona, Spain
- Anne Berk in The Netherlands
- Stefanie Krome in Carrara, Italy
- Frank Nordiek, Northern Germany
- Yke Prins in The Netherlands
- Hilde Van Canneyt, in Gent, Belgium
- Ien van Wierst, Mallorca, Spain
- Anemone Vostell, Berlin and Brandenburg, Germany
- Marek Wolynski, London, UK

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all volunteers.

8. Board

In 2023, the Board consists of the following members:

Executive Board - responsible for the budget, financial statements, operational management and legal affairs of the association:

- Frank Evelein, Chairperson
- José Anne Berkhof, Vice Chairperson
- Yke Prins

- Christian H. Friederichs (until 31.12.2023)
- Karl Gadesmann (from 1.1.2024)

Extended Board

- Hartmut Stielow
- Laure Debouttiere

Sculpture Network would like to take this opportunity to thank all members, donors, supporters, volunteers, board members, coordinators, employees and cooperation partners for their contribution. Without their support Sculpture Network would not be possible.

Munich, 27.08.2024



Frank Evelein José Anne Berkhof Yke Prins Karl Gadesmann