

Activity Account and Annual Report 2008

Sculpture network

In 2008 sculpture network intensely pursued the goals stated in its articles of association: namely the support, in particular, of the development and advancement of sculpture and, therewith, of related forms of art.

Summary

Sculpture network was able to further develop its program through steady extension of the international organisation and its structure.

By means of our well-attended international programme agenda, our website and our monthly newsletter, we were in a position to further the idea of supporting sculpture within an ever growing group of art enthusiasts.

At the end of the year 2008, we had approximately 500 members from 27 countries. This has had a positive effect on our financial situation; our reserve funds have now been raised to 40,000 EUR. This enables us to finance the relaunch of our website.

Programme

Our activities were further intensified in 2008. Regular reports appeared in our Newsletter (in English, German and Spanish) and on our website (in English and German).

Symposia 2008:

Our VII. International Sculpture Symposium "Approaches to sculpture in the landscape" was held in Leeds from the 5th- 7th September in cooperation with Leeds University, with over 100 participants from 19 different countries.

This was the first year where sculptors and institutions were able to present their works and projects in a showroom to the public. This reform has been taken very positive.

Regional Members` Meetings 2008:

18. + 19. January	Passau, Germany	28. Juni	Madrid, Spain
13. February	Munich, Germany	23. August	Lenthe, Germany
24. February	Tarragona, Spain	20. September	Friedrichshafen, Germany
13. March	Madrid, Spain	05. October	Neumarkt, Germany
15./16. Mai	Ljubljana, Slovenia	18. November	Friedrichshafen, Germany
24. Mai	Duisburg, Germany	27. November	Madrid, Spain
01. June	Freiburg, Germany		

More than 1000 international members and guests attended these meetings.

We were able to gain the cooperation of recognised museums and art collections in support of our purpose and, therewith, were able to expand our supranational network of people and organisations committed to our idea.

Our special focus has been the development of our network in Eastern Europe; a first meeting + exchange between western and eastern European members took place at Ljubljana in May. For the coordination of our activities in Eastern Europe we were able to recruit Andrej Srakar who is a project manager with the Slovenian Sculpture Union Zavod za kiparstvo.

Furthermore we developed a concept for an international Young Artist Award which will be awarded for the first time in 2009/2010.

We have a new exclusive service for our sculptor members which has been well received: the "Opportunities Newsletter". In this monthly Newsletter we publish European wide tenders, commissions, awards and other important information, which enables sculptors to save precious time on online research and gives them access to information from foreign countries.

Members and Communication

With some 500 members at the end of 2008, we recorded an increase of approximately 60% over the prior year.

On the occasion of the international Sculpture Symposium the members meeting 2008 was held on September 7th 2008 in Leeds. The annual finance report was unilaterally accepted, the Board and the treasurers were exonerated. The charter has been modified, now if the annual account is done by an accounting company the annual report by the treasurer can be abdicated. The annual report has been audited by Deloitte & Touche GmbH since the founding year 2004 and was given complete attestation.

Our Newsletter has institutionalised itself as an important instrument of information, enhancing our network within a broad spectrum of readers. At present it is distributed to over 5,000 interested persons and serves as a vital means of practical cultural exchange.

We have continually improved upon our website (www.sculpture-network.org). Due to risen technological and content wise standards in the World Wide Web we decided to tackle the relaunch of our website this year. This will give our members further possibilities for networking and exchange of information. In the year 2008 we had approximately 35,000 visits to our website.

A significant task of sculpture network is the dissemination of our idea within interested circles. During the regional members` meetings and international sculpture symposiums some 1,500 members and guests met in direct conversation and in an exchange of ideas. Through the distribution of our invitations and flyers, approximately 25,000 art enthusiasts have come to recognise our efforts in the advancement of sculpture. Expanding the number of these contacts, cultivating and maintaining them is a major part of our communication and our practical programming work.

Finances

The financial situation of sculpture network has been further stabilized due to the increase in membership; still the costs of our Head office could not be financed through this. Our extensive programme in 2008 was financed by membership dues, and in the case of Leeds, by participant fees and partly coverage by the University of Leeds. However, we did need substantial individual donations.

In order to financially cover our future investments, such as the website and marketing instruments, we have increased our reserves to around 40,000 EUR. For details, see our balance sheet as of 31 December 2008.

The profit and loss statement for 2008 indicates how money was spent on varied projects during the year. It is especially notable that, percentage wise, our administrative costs are still low; they are at 6%.

This reduction and the accomplishment of our programme were made possible only through extensive voluntary work by our members and by the board, who regularly coordinate their efforts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers.

Benefit to the Public

The responsible revenue in Berlin granted us benefit to the public from the founding year on. This will also be granted in the future if the goals in the article of association do not change.

Outlook for 2009 and 2010

In 2009 we have a series of "Regional Members Meetings" planned, an from 15th to 18th October our VIII. International Sculptures Symposium in Liechtenstein on the topic "Sculpture - Architecture - Public Space". This will take place in cooperation with the University of Liechtenstein, the Zeppelin University, the Art museum Lichtenstein, and the Sitterwerk. Beside our informative, discussion inspiring lectures and the extensive visitors program there will of course be the possibility for sculptors and institutions to present their work to the public using our "Showroom".

2010 we will conduct several Symposia in Germany (on the topic Wood Sculptures). 2011 we are anticipating letting these take place in Bulgaria, also expanding on our Regional Members` Meetings.

In addition, we intend to increase our contacts with the new European Union countries. An extensive Eastern Europe project is under progress, fund raising has already been started.

The international Young Artist Award will be presented for the first time in 2010; we have therefore initiated the necessary cooperation's with colleges and academies.

We also plan to initiate an exchange programme among sculptor members whereby an interchange of professional ideas and cultural experiences can take place and can be passed on during a limited period of time spent in the studios of colleagues.

Further projects are under consideration.

In spring 2009 we will create a new flyer that will be distributed among our members, for June we are planning on launching the new website. With the relaunch of the website and its enhanced technical possibilities we will increase our online programme, there will be a service provider database which will give the sculptors among us the possibility to use this database for research on appropriate service providers.

We are rapidly approaching our pronounced goal of being the competence centre for sculpture within Europe. We need your active support – we look forward to your ideas, suggestions and contributions!

22. April 2009

Ralf Kirberg/ Isabelle Henn