

## Annual Report sculpture network 2011

### Activities of the Organisation to Meet the Statutory Objectives

#### 1. Program Development

One of the main goals of sculpture network is to spread and promote our idea among interested parties. The following events listed below have been attended by some 1,300 members and guests who came together in order to debate and exchange ideas. Through the distribution of our invitation letters, newsletter and flyer more than 20,000 people interested in contemporary sculpture have learned about our work to support and further three-dimensional art. Enhancing, administering and fostering these contacts are some of the main focuses of the programme work of sculpture network.

#### sculpture network New Year's Brunch 2011 (nyb'11)

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 the second sculpture network New Year's Brunch took place with great enthusiasm. Over 800 people attended (2010: 600) at 24 locations in 9 different countries (2010: 19 locations in 6 countries). Under the so-called "review" several locations were virtually linked with one another and sent greetings back and forth. The feedback was overwhelming. The nyb'12 was announced in a "save the date" mail sent out on August 12<sup>th</sup> 2011. Preparations started in October.

The idea of creating venues for new encounters within each of the communities was very well accepted. Thus there is a need for communication and the exchange of ideas. Without the hosts among our members, this would all not have come about. They opened their studios and other facilities, made the appropriate preparations and devoted themselves to their guests. A heartfelt thank you to all of you is expressed herewith.

In his short welcome speech on this occasion, our Chairman, Ralf Kirberg, characterised these initiatives as the "self-igniting effect" of sculpture network. This we must support and develop.

#### Sculpture Experiences

Under this new designation, two art tours took place in Spain in 2011:

- 17.-18.06 Mallorca (ES)
- 07.-10.11 Basque Lands, Navarra and Rioja (ES)

The former preview and adjunct programmes to the symposia were renamed and have become a separate programme event. These tours are especially popular with friends of the arts and collectors, as sculpture and all that it involves can be experienced directly (therefore the name).

From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, approximately 30 participants from throughout Europe, people of similar interests in sculpture and specialists, enjoyed the rich cultural heritage of Mallorca. The Experience in the Basque Lands, Navarra and Rioja took place prior to the Forum in Bilbao. Over 40 participants were treated to good wine, good food and fantastic natural countryside.

#### Regional Meetings

Approximately 80 members and friends of sculpture network attended our Regional Meetings this year:

- 24.-26.06 Zurich (CH)
- 25.06 Franche-Comté (FR)
- 10.09 Neuss/Gangelt (DE)

Interesting contacts and new projects have resulted from these meetings.

## **Sculpture Symposia**

A new event format was established within the programme agenda of sculpture network in 2011: Sculpture symposia. A total of 25 members of sculpture network participated in the following two symposia:

- 21.-28.08 A drawing symposium in Huddersfield (GB) with 15 participants from 8 different nations, with 65 drawings resulting
- 01.-11.09 First International Olive Grove Symposium in Gangelt (DE) with 10 participants from 7 different nations, resulting in 10 large-scale sculptures in wood

As a result of the great success and the positive feedback from both sculpture symposia, an expansion of this programme agenda is planned.

## **International Forum 2011**

The X International Forum entitled "Sculpture Today – A Space for Inquiry: Experience Re-Codified" was held in Bilbao, Spain from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2011. The Forum was organised in conjunction with the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao. Further partners were Alfa Arte and Chillida Leku Park in San Sebastian. Over 250 artists, art mediators and friends of the arts from 12 different nations took part, more than ever before.

Sculptors and institutions were able to present their work and projects in catalogues, photographic material, etc. In addition, 30 artist members of sculpture network gave a one-minute presentation of their work in the auditorium of the museum. This gave a positive impetus to further discussion and the exchange of ideas.

## **2. Web Services for Members**

Approximately 7,000 visitors per month make use of information offered on our website.

**Opportunities – Database:** Here members are able to find the latest calls for proposals, competitions, commissions and artist-in-residence programmes. Our research team selects from all offers published worldwide relevant opportunities for sculptors and displays them on our website.

**Hermes' Message:** In discussions with sculptor members in particular, we have gained the impression that practical examples of the utilisation of our website can be quite helpful. This is true, especially with short success stories that prove that networking is one of the basics in the artistic world – nevertheless something that naturally cannot replace creative quality. These success stories are published under the designation "Hermes' Message" in our Newsletter and on our website.

**Artist Portfolios:** All artists belonging to the network present themselves here with their work and exhibitions. Members can contact the artists directly via e-mail or link into their personal websites for further information.

**Members Database:** Visitors and members can search directly for interesting people and institutions in the various countries and take up contact with them.

**Service Provider Database:** According to our records, our service provider database that went online at the beginning of 2010 has not found the user quota that we had expected nor that it deserves. We have, therefore, enhanced this information with a regular working tip appearing in the Newsletter entitled "Worked Out". Here, for his efforts in this regard, we are especially grateful to our sculptor member, HEX. We have now established a considerable increase in interest.

**News Portal:** Our website visitors are kept abreast of current trends in the sculpture scene.

**Calendar of Events:** We offer our members and other interested persons an extensive overview with a wealth of information on interesting sculpture exhibitions, trade fairs, biennials, sculpture network

events, seminars, courses, workshops, etc. taking place European wide.

Our **Newsletter** has established itself as an important instrument for dispersing information and for enhancing networking in a broad circle of readers. The Newsletter is received regularly by some 13,000 interested parties in Europe in English, German or Spanish, thereby representing an important contribution to practical cultural exchange.

## **Members**

With 957 members at the end of 2011, we registered an increase of 11% over 2010.

**The Members' Annual Meeting 2011** was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2011 in Bilbao on the occasion of the International Sculpture Forum there. The annual financial statement, approved and cleared by Deloitte & Touche GmbH, was unanimously accepted. The executive board was released from its responsibilities for the financial year 2010.

## **Staff and Volunteers**

sculpture network has seven correspondents who function as contact persons for our members in individual countries and regions.

Furthermore, we have a team of ten volunteers who are active in many areas of the organisation.

In 2011 we were supported by several trainees. Two of these trainees have assumed further responsibilities in the organisation following completion of their practical work:

- Sophie Glas for the administration of the event calendar on the website
- Leonie Kilgus for the administration of the Opportunities Database on the website

Maxine Weiß is the new trainee at sculpture network as of the end of October. Her main job is the organisation of the nyb' 12 in Munich.

## **Finances**

The financial status of sculpture network has been improving due to the increase in membership; however, our income still did not suffice to cover the costs of the coordinating office in Pöcking. We were able to finance the extensive programs in 2011 through membership dues, and, as in the case of our event in Bilbao, through participation fees and the financial support of our cooperating partners.

For further information we refer to our financial statement of 31.12.2011. We would like to point out that the administration costs remained at 4% of total expenditures. Yet the fact that, despite all of our efforts, losses through membership fees not paid has increased to 7% is worrying.

The realisation of our extensive programme was only possible thanks to the comprehensive efforts of our voluntary staff and the executive board which meets regularly. One member of the Board receives a fee for special tasks. We would like to use this occasion to profusely thank all of our supporters.

## **Charitable Status**

The fiscal authorities in Berlin responsible for our organisation have granted us "charitable status" from the founding of sculpture network, at the latest on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2011. Should there be no alteration in our statutory goals, there should be no change of status in the future.

## Preview 2012 and 2013

We have planned a new developmental concept for the Regional Meetings taking place in several countries in 2012. The announcement of dates can be found in the calendar on our website.

Following the great success of the nyb'11 with 800 participants in 9 countries at the beginning of 2011, we again organised the New Year's Brunch 2012 to take place on the third Sunday in January of the New Year. On January the 15<sup>th</sup> 2012, many sculptors, friends of the arts and art mediators will come together to celebrate a day in Europe for three-dimensional art.

sculpture network is planning several particular international events in 2012, among others the XI International Forum in Celle, Germany from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September in cooperation with the Art Museum Celle with its Robert Simon collection on the theme "Light Art".

Furthermore, we plan to expand and intensify our programme work.

Further goals are:

- Group exhibitions by members in Stockholm (SE) and Berlin (DE)
- Design of an image brochure as a means of publicity
- An increase in the amount of information offered on our website
- Intensification in European-wide cooperation with institutions and cultural organisations in the area of three-dimensional art
- Enhancement of the networking dynamics among our members

In addition, a relaunch of our website is planned, a move to make it more attractive and user friendly through enhanced graphic design.

We are getting ever closer to achieving our goal of becoming the competence centre for sculpture in Europe.

Pöcking/ Germany, 15.05.2012

Ralf Kirberg  
Chairman

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Project Manager