

Minutes

9th Regular Association Meeting

sculpture network e. V.

5th of October 2013 at 8:30 AM in “Nordzee Zaal” room at ibis Hotel den Hague (Scheveningen), Gevers Deynootweg 63, 2586BJ, Netherlands

ITEM 1 Chairman’s welcome, ratification of the Agenda and introduction of new Board Member Helmut Pütz (responsible for finances since 20.01.2013)

At 8:39 AM the Chairman opened the session, which was held in English. Paulina Tsvetanova kept the minutes.

The Chairman greeted the members in his own name as well as in the name of the Board Members present – Hartmut Stielow, Beatriz Blanch and Helmut Pütz. He also addressed those members who could not attend the meeting in The Hague. Board Member Peter Fischer-Piel was excused and sent his best regards to all attendees.

The Chairman established that the meeting was called in good order and on time, in accordance with Article VII of the By-Laws. Twenty-six members were present. He asked for requests for any additional items to be added to the agenda. None were motioned.

New Board Member Helmut Pütz was officially introduced. He had been elected Member of the Board in January 2013. Helmut Pütz is responsible for finances.

ITEM 2 Acceptance of the annual report 2012 and approval of the Executive Committee

Helmut Pütz presented only the most significant figures of last year’s balance sheet, which had been sent to all members by email, together with the invitation prior to the meeting.

Deloitte & Touche, the auditing firm who has audited sculpture network’s books pro bono, since its start in 2004, once again audited and made the 2012 Annual Report. Heartfelt thanks were extended to Deloitte for their efforts and continued support.

Helmut Pütz asked if there were any comments on the Annual Report. This was not the case. The Annual Report were thereupon put to vote and unanimously ratified. The present Board members abstained from voting.

Knopp Ferro motioned that the Board is approved for 2012. The motion was unanimously accepted, The present Board members abstained from voting. Therewith, all Board Members were approved for 2012.

ITEM 3 2013 Activities summary and discussion

Isabelle Henn presented the accomplished programs and activities in 2013, up to that point.

sculpture network Program work:

- The **new year's brunch** 2013 was a great success with over 2,000 participants. People interested in hosting the **new year's brunch** 2014 on 19 January are asked to contact Paulina Tsvetanova after the Meeting.
- 16 Dialogues were carried out (5 - 6 more to come till the end of the year, for instance Girona, Heidelberg / Mannheim, Verbier and others)
- 1 Experience trip to Tuscany took place
- XII International Forum now taking place in Holland
- Our Teaching Sculpture call received very good response (over 25 teachers interested). Beatriz Blanch briefly presented the project and what people who are teaching sculpture can gain from exchange with other teachers in the field.
- One edition of 90 seconds members' presentations
- Artists showrooms at International Forum and **new year's brunch** 2013

Services:

- Our newsletter has a new editor since January 2013, Amparo Lopez Corral from Madrid. Since then layout and content have changed and possibilities for external advertisement have been included, in order to raise funds for the newsletter.
- Our website was re-launched in June with new layout, many new functions, added online contribution possibilities for the members, improved navigation and usability. Isabelle Henn invited all members to make more active use of the new online forms for uploading events, information and opportunities.

Some participants mentioned that artists are overloaded with work and have difficulties keeping up with all the communication tasks, which are nowadays required to promote themselves. They raised the question if sculpture network office could offer this service for their members (e.g. inputting exhibitions in the What's On calendar section). The Board underlined that the idea of the network is "you for you" and not "we for you".

Our staff capacities are very limited. Members should therefore take advantage of the much more functional and simple website tools. To facilitate its use website tutorial videos were produced which explain how to use the website and upload information.

Ralf Kirberg proposes the idea of a paid central webpage management service; online services extended (Opportunities, what's on calendar, members in the focus, etc.). Members find that interesting. The Board will give it further thought.

Communication:

- Social Media activities: our facebook fan numbers continue to grow (currently around 6.700). We are also present on XING, Google+ and LinkedIn and we run our own YouTube channel
- Networking with other organizations: sculpture network is cooperating with different organizations in the field, e.g. AIESM, Independent Collectors, ICOM, ISC and different

Sculptor's Associations European wide; additionally sculpture network was mentioned in an EU survey as one of Europe's 10 best European cultural online platforms

- New stickers and flyers have been produced to facilitate spreading the word about sculpture network
- sculpture network is also present at some major art fairs, as representatives present the idea of our network at them

Membership:

120 new members joined sculpture network this year. At present the organization has around 1,000 members in 43 countries.

Coordinators:

Local Coordinators in certain parts of Europe represent sculpture network. Isabelle Henn and the Board would like to thank the below mentioned Coordinators for their continued support and voluntary engagement in their regions:

- Beatriz Blanch, Madrid + Spain
- Neus Bergua, Catalonia
- Anne Berk, The Netherlands
- Christiane Tureczek, Switzerland
- Paulina Tsetanova, Berlin

Isabelle Henn mentions that sculpture network makes constant efforts to increase the Coordinators network. New agreements are currently under way with possible coordinators for Balearic Islands, France, Carrara in Italy, Lower Saxony in Germany and other regions of Germany. Any further ideas or proposals are very welcome.

Beatriz Blanch mentions that being a coordinator is voluntary work but at the same time you get a lot back from this position, which also serves as a door opener for individual and her/his own activities.

Central Office in Germany:

- In June the central office moved from Pöcking to Munich, where we continue to have office space free of charge thanks to Ralf Kirberg and his personal contacts.
- Our employee Sophie Schmidpeter married in September and changed her last name to Peikert. Additionally she is expecting a baby in December. Her last workday will be 24 October 2013. Sophie will continue to work for sculpture network during her motherhood and do the bookkeeping and members' administration.
- New staff starts in January 2014. This person will be responsible for Marketing, Fundraising and Events.
- New intern Mariam Kamiab starts working in October and stays till end of March 2014.

In the coming year sculpture network intends to continue with this broad spectrum of program work.

Plans for 2014, our 10th anniversary year:

- The new year's brunch 2014 will be the official Celebration of the Anniversary. Ralf Kirberg asked the members to actively participate in organising the new year's brunch 2014 on the 19th of January and to offer their services as a host for the event.
- Curators Choice Program: 10 curators from around Europe will be selected in a call by an independent jury and have the possibility to publish their views on sculpture today, together with a listing of their highlighted sculptures/ sculptors. The results will be published throughout 2014.
- Working Symposium: 8-10 artists. We are currently checking possible locations and looking for sponsors.
- Teaching Sculpture program: project result will be presented in May 2014
- International Forum will take place from 2 - 4 October 2014 in Manchester, probably together with an exhibition and a working symposium.
- Many Dialogues; they have proven to be a very successful format for creating new bridges and networking opportunities both locally and regionally
- Experience art trip to Sweden and Norway (Goteborg - Oslo) and Mallorca

The Board calls on all members again to become actively involved in sculpture network by "publicising" it. The value for each individual member depends essentially on the initiatives developed within the group itself.

ITEM 4 Any further business

General feedback on the International Forum from participants present at the Meeting:

- High level of speakers
- Conference part (Friday) was very intense – some participants suggested to extend the conference part over 2 days, so people have more time to reflect, network and discuss. Future Forums would then last 3 ½ days instead of 2 ½ days
- Touring day was very interesting and well organized
- Lectures' time management need to be improved
- Request for more general information on cultural and regional idiosyncrasies in addition to the art and cultural tips already provided

The members offer the following suggestions regarding sculpture network's further program development:

Fundraising:

Members inquire about the possibilities of finding public funding or sponsors who could support the organisation and how one could engage them in the future. The Chairman explains that this is a difficult task and discussions constantly goes on around this issue and organisations are approached. Being a "virtual" organization adds to this difficulty. Applications for EU money have already been considered in the past. It is generally easier to get funding for small, annual projects. During the ensuing discussion between members and Board, it becomes obvious that grants are more readily available for local and regional projects. Given that sculpture network's events are international and take place each year in different countries, the search for on-going support is difficult.

The question was raised whether it is easier for countries from former East Europe to get financial support. Jan Gagacki, from the Center of Polish Sculpture in Oronsko, mentioned that they recently got 200.000 Euro for a sculpture program and offered his expertise.

Crowdfunding is also suggested as a means for funding, but this option is also complicated given sculpture network's international location.

In diesem Zusammenhang wird daran erinnert, dass sculpture network seit den Gründungsjahren durch die vorerwähnten persönlichen Verbindungen des Vorsitzenden unterstützt wird. Diese Personal- und Sachleistungen sind mit jährlich über EUR 50.000 zu bewerten. Ohne diese Unterstützung wären die Mitgliedsbeiträge in der bisherigen Höhe nicht zu halten gewesen.

In this context it is recalled that sculpture network is supported since its founding years by the aforementioned personal contacts of the Chairman. These labor costs and benefits in kind shall be valued at about EUR 50,000 per year. Without this support, the membership fees could not have been kept at the same level.

A guest of the Membership Meeting draws the attention towards Interregional Funding – a EU program related to cross border projects. He also notes that given the world's environmental problems and growing awareness of them, sculpture network should develop an adequate attitude towards the issue when organizing events (e.g. catering regional food, avoid plastic waste, etc.) and should "go green".

The Chairman closes the meeting at 09:40 AM and thanks participants for their attendance and constructive contributions to the discussions.

Munich, October 23, 2013



Ralf Kirberg
Chairman



Paulina Tsvetanova
Clerk