

## sculpture network Annual Report 2015

### Activities towards the fulfillment of statutory requisites

Founded in 2004, sculpture network is Europe's leading platform for contemporary sculpture. Its objectives are to promote sculpture and to create networking opportunities amongst individuals and institutions interested in and involved with three-dimensional art, especially: artists, art professionals & mediators, sculpture parks & museums, galleries, curators, collectors & friends of the arts.

At sculpture network the focus is on personal encounters in an informal and open atmosphere – something that is not always the case in the art world. In accordance with this motto, sculpture network organized twenty events in sixteen countries in 2015. These meet-ups of the European sculpture community facilitated the exchange of ideas, discussions about sculpture and a variety of art experiences. Numerous local and cross-border projects have been conceived during these occasions and through the subsequent contacts. More than 3500 people participated in these events.

With over 1000 Members in 39 countries, sculpture network is present throughout Europe. The network is virtually inexhaustible. This results in faster, easier and better results when looking for new partnerships and collaboration partners.

The most important milestones in 2015 were our two big events, the XIII. International Forum in Linz, Austria on "Advanced Media / Expanded Sculpture" and the 6<sup>th</sup> International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture (nyb'15), during which over 2600 people celebrated sculpture at 45 locations in 17 countries throughout Europe. We also launched our event series entitled "European Dialogue Series". In 2015 the topic was "collecting sculpture" and the series itself included several interviews with collectors, exclusive expert talks, discussions and curator-guided tours through private collections.

Furthermore, we were able to complete our image brochure, which highlights who we are and what we hope to achieve. In the summer, we started a large-scale marketing activity, contacting around 400 sculpture museums, sculpture parks and sculpture unions. We sent them the brochure, informed them about our association and invited them to become a member of the network or to enter into a collaboration. We also initiated new marketing cooperations with art trade shows and outdoor sculpture events, the results of which include reduced or free admissions for our members, in addition to improved advertising.

Thanks to very active editorial work in 2015, our info portal [www.sculpture-network.org](http://www.sculpture-network.org) was further developed and greatly expanded. In the category "sculpture locations in Europe" over 300 museums, sculpture parks, galleries, workshops and associations that particularly emphasize three-dimensional art are listed. This platform is a huge resource for inspiration and research.

Another main focus of 2015 was expanding our social media activity. We made great progress and are proud of our continuously growing community of friends and followers on a variety of channels. For example, our new Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/sculpturenetwork/> is very well received and helps spread information about contemporary sculpture via social media. The beautiful pictures are definitely worth a look!

Achieving such extensive and positive results in 2015 was only possible thanks to extensive voluntary efforts and the support of our members, international coordinators, volunteers and board, as well as the staff's hard work and dedication. sculpture network wishes to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all its supporters.

## 1. sculpture network events 2015

More than 3500 people participated at twenty events in 2015 and it was possible to acquire many renowned associates, including internationally known artists, curators, art production centres, private collections and museums.

### 6th International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture – new year’s brunch 2015

On January 25, 2015 the International Celebration of Contemporary Sculpture took place. This year’s theme was “size matters”. More than 2600 artists, collectors, experts and friends of the arts took advantage of the opportunity to discuss three-dimensional art, to discover new artists and their artworks and to make new contacts.

Contemporary sculpture was celebrated 45 venues in 17 countries and this day, all demonstrating the importance of sculpture. The event stands for a growing, cross-border and interconnected community consisting of stakeholders in the three-dimensional art world and art enthusiasts. Both hosts and guests profit from such events at which contacts can grow into initiatives and even friendships. The activities took place at very different venues: artist’s workshops, exhibition rooms, galleries, studios for sculpture, foundries and other cultural venues. A novelty in 2015 was the use of an interactive, live photo-wall, which showed current social media posts from visitors from all the different locations. In this manner visitors were well-informed about what was going on at the other locations of the international celebration, thus increasing the feeling of togetherness. This innovation was welcomed by organizers and participants alike.

### XIII. International Forum at Linz, Austria on „Advanced Media / Expanded Sculpture”

From 1 to 3 October 2015 sculpture network’s XIII. International Forum on „Advanced Media/ Expanded Sculpture“ took place in Linz, Austria. It was curated by Gottfried Hattinger and board member Beatriz Blanch. 70 artists, art agents and friends of the arts from 10 different countries participated. We were welcomed by the deputy mayor in the town hall and continued on to the Lentos art museum, where we enjoyed the exhibition by Cathy Wikles on a tour led by director Stella Rolling. Subsequently, ten artist members of sculpture network spoke about their current artwork in 90 second presentations:

Claudia Biehne (Germany), Solange Keschmann (Switzerland/ Austria), Marvin Liberman (USA), David Magán (Spain), Thomas Rappaport (Switzerland), Stephanie Rhode (Netherlands), Nils-R. Schultz (Germany), Miroslav Trubac (Slovakia) und Erica van Seeters (Netherlands).

The next day the event continued with presentations at the Mediendeck at OK Offenes Kulturhaus Oberösterreich. International experts, artists and participants discussed the exploration of the symbiosis of haptic and virtual space, its history and philosophy and its tools and artworks. As early as the beginning of the twentieth century sculpture began to ‘move’ as a result of the implementation of small electric motors. How and in what manner does advancing media effect three-dimensional art today? Contributors were Nicolas Lambert (UK), lecturer at Birbeck University in London, Miqui Guillén (Spain) from Factum Arte, the artists Matthew Plummer-Fernandez (UK) and Quayola (Italy), and Martin Sturm (Austria), director of OK Mediendeck. To complete the day the participants visited the impressive exhibition “Höhenrausch” at OK Kulturquartier. In the parallel showroom sculptors and institutions presented their work and projects in catalogues and pictures. On Saturday the forum proceeded at Ars Electronica Center. After an introduction by director Gerfried Stocker, the artists Hideki Ogawa (Japan) and Josef Reitsberger (Austria) presented their work. The day concluded with a guided tour through the exhibition and the “Deep Space” of the Ars Electronica Center with Prof. Gerhard Funke from University of Linz, who focused on the 3D printing workshop.

## Dialogues

**6 countries - 17 events - 350 participants**

Dialogues are local events and generally open to the greater public. These events aim to give specialists and private persons interested in sculpture new insight into the world of contemporary sculpture and to offer a platform for dialogue and exchange.

In 2015 350 people met at 17 events in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Great Britain. In order to realize these projects we collaborated with 41 partners (artists and institutions).

In 2015 the newly-created event series „**European Dialogue Series**“ was dedicated to the topic of “collecting sculpture”. Generally, collecting art is considered an undertaking that requires great passion and even more money. But is that true? What is a collector thinking about? Which factors result in a purchase? What kind of relationship does a collector have to art, to the art market and to the artists? What does owning art imply? These and many more questions were answered by collectors at sculpture network’s first European Dialogue Series, which took place at four different venues:

- 27 February in Madrid, Spain: Corporate Collecting: Why do companies collect art? Panel discussion on the occasion of Spanish art fair ARCO
- 13 March in Barcelona, Spain: About collecting: Interview with collector José Manuel Infiesta
- 18 April in Hanover, Germany: About collecting: Interview with collector Dietrich Hoppenstedt
- 18 April in Wageningen, Netherlands: About collecting: Interview with collector Loek Dijkman

In addition, the following 13 sculpture network Dialogues took place:

- 4 February in London, Great Britain: Artist talk: Daryl Brown
- 21 February in Zwolle, Netherlands: Curator-led visit: "In Search of Meaning – The Human Figure in Global Perspective"
- 3 March in Madrid, Spain: Visit at CAPA Foundry
- 9 May in Obfelden, Switzerland: Curator-led visit through the exhibition of Ilona Lenk and Christa Giger & artist talk with Katrin Zuzakova
- 25 May in Madrid, Spain: 25 years of collection and cultural sponsorship by UNED – sculpture in public spaces
- 14 June in Surrey, Great Britain: Visit to the Hannah Peschar Sculpture Park and artist talk with Johannes von Stumm
- 21 June in Herentals, Belgium: Curator-led visit through the exhibition of Aron Demetz at Art Center Hugo Voeten
- 27 June in All (La Cerdanya), Spain: Artist talk and workshop visit: Ernest Altés
- 17 July in Leipzig, Germany: Visit of cotton-spinning mill and artist talk with Claudia Biehne
- 19 September in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe, Germany: Behind the scenes of „Blickachsen 10.“ – The ever renewing interplay of landscape and art
- 26 September in el Vendrell (Tarragona), Spain: Visit of Apel les Fenosa Foundation and the exhibition "paisatges" with artist Miquel Planas
- 24 October in Winterthur, Switzerland: Meet the Artist: Richard Deacon at Winterthur art museum
- 24 November in Berlin, Germany: Meet the Artists: Ute Deutz and Rainer Düvell workshop visit & artist talk at Kreativfabrik

## Experience

sculpture network trips are unique as they focus on contemporary sculpture, whilst also presenting the local culture and gastronomy of places visited. In 2015, we planned and conducted a trip to the 56th Biennale in Venice, Italy. Guided by Dutch curators Anne Berk and Saskija Wijne, 40 travel-minded people from six nations enjoyed a well-planned selection of this extraordinary richness of art and impressions.

## 2. sculpture network information portal 2015

On our website [www.sculpture-network.org](http://www.sculpture-network.org), sculpture network provides an enormous amount of information about contemporary sculpture. 740 artists introduce themselves with detailed profile pages containing photos and videos. In addition, around 300 museums, sculpture parks and galleries that concentrate on sculpture are also listed. 150 companies offer their materials and services to sculptors. Every month our editorial team researches about 30 new international calls for sculptors and publishes them in a filterable database. Another focus of our editorial work is the “What’s on”-section, in which all European sculpture related events (exhibitions, conferences, fairs etc.), going on or soon to be held are listed. In 2015, we announced more than 650 dates. Furthermore, a collection of 125 recommendations for books focussing on sculpture are available on the website.

Thanks to very active editorial work in 2015, our info portal at [www.sculpture-network.org](http://www.sculpture-network.org) was greatly enlarged and further developed. In the category “sculpture locations in Europe” one can now research over 300 museums, sculpture parks, galleries, workshops and associations around Europe, all of which concentrate on three-dimensional art. The platform is a huge pool for inspiration and research.

The greater part of this information is available to everybody. However, some areas of the website are exclusively accessible by our members.

### **Artist Profiles: 740 artists from 39 nations**

In this section, artist members of sculpture network present photos and videos of their artwork, share their vita and publish dates for their exhibitions. The list can be filtered by country, city or material. These filters make it even easier to research new and existing artists. Galleries, curators and collectors often consult this list in order to discover new artists.

### **Sculpture Places in Europe: 300 venues listed**

This database lists venues that specifically show contemporary sculpture. These include museums, sculpture parks and trails, galleries, open-air exhibitions and biennials. Members of sculpture network are highlighted. Part of the database is available for everyone; the entire list is accessible exclusively in the members’ area.

### **What’s on: 650 published sculpture-related events in Europe**

This section is an updated listing of sculpture related events - such as exhibitions, vernissages, workshops, conferences and art fairs - going on or upcoming throughout Europe.

### **Opportunities (Calls) listings (members only): 300 published calls in 2015**

Approximately 300 calls were published in 2015, with an average of 60 calls on-line at one time. Our research team selects relevant calls worldwide and regularly updates the list, which can be filtered according to the following categories: competitions, awards, artist-in-residency programmes, tenders for public art, etc.

### **Material & Services: 150 listed companies**

This section lists companies providing materials, tools or services of specific interest to the sculpture world. Part of the information is available for all visitors; but only members can access the entire database. The types of companies listed include foundries, art material suppliers, quarries, model making companies, insurance companies, logistic companies, web service suppliers and graphic designers.

### **Book Recommendations: 125 published book tips**

This section offers an open source database of recommended reading about contemporary sculpture. The categories are: monographs, art history, working techniques, exhibition catalogues, art in public space, sculpture museums/gardens/parks, novels and others.

### 3. sculpture network Communication

One of sculpture network's main goals is to increase awareness of the uniqueness and social relevance of sculpture and to raise the recognition and acceptance of contemporary sculpture among the general public. For this reason communication and public relations are central elements of sculpture network's activities.

The following channels are currently used to promote contemporary sculpture:

<b>Website</b>	Ø 37.000 viewings per month (63.000 in January 2015!)
<b>Newsletter</b>	17.000 subscribers (2 languages: German, English)
<b>Social Media</b>	14.000 fans and followers
<b>Direct Mailings</b>	102 mailings about our events and offers
<b>Press</b>	3 press releases to our international press mailing list
<b>Cooperation</b>	4 art fairs and 4 outdoor-sculpture events gained as collaborators
<b>Info material</b>	400 image brochures mailed to relevant institutions and organizations 10.000 flyers distributed

Another main focus of 2015 was building up our social media activity. We made great progress and are proud of our continually growing community of friends and followers on various channels. For example, our new Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/sculpturenetwork/> is very well received very well and contributes greatly to the spreading of information about contemporary sculpture via social media. In the second half of 2015 we increased the number of postings, which contributed to increased interaction and fan numbers. sculpture network is reachable via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram and Google+.

Furthermore, we were able to finish our image brochure, which attractively highlights who we are and what we hope to achieve. In summer we started a huge marketing activity and contacted around 400 sculpture museums, sculpture parks and sculpture unions. We informed them about our association and invited them to become a member of the network or to enter into a collaboration. We entered into new marketing cooperations with art museums and outdoor sculpture events, which include benefits regarding reduced or free admissions for our members, in addition to increased advertising.

### 4. Finances / Legal

sculpture network's financial situation remains stable with figures similar to 2014. However, revenues still do not cover total cost of running the organization. Thus, we are heavily reliant on in-kind donations that specifically cover Munich office costs and the Managing Director's post. Membership fees are our main source of income and in 2015 they funded the extensive programme, public relations and the information portal.

**Charitable Status.** The fiscal authorities in Berlin responsible for our organisation confirmed our "charitable status" in 2011-2013. Statutory goals have not changed and neither has this status been contested, therefore we continue to be legally registered and recognised as such.

## 5. Membership

With over 1000 Members in 39 countries, sculpture network is present throughout Europe and possesses an almost inexhaustible network. These relations often result in new partnerships and collaboration partners.

Membership figures have more than doubled in the past five years. As of 31 December 2015 the association had a total of 1009 members in 39 nations. The members include artists, institutions, art suppliers/service providers and friends of sculpture network. In 2015, sculpture network gained a total of 143 new members.

The annual membership fee remained stable. The association currently offers the following categories of membership:

Category	Annual fee (in EUR)
Artist	120,-
Institution / Organization	220,-
Supplier	220,-
Friends of sculpture network	150,-

## 6. Staff and volunteers

Throughout 2015 sculpture network's work force continued to be heavily reliant on part-time staff and voluntary help. The salaries of some full-time employees were facilitated by the head of the board Ralf Kirberg and, therefore, did not burden the association's budget. Following persons were employed for sculpture network during 2015 at the head office in Munich, Germany:

- Beatriz Blanch, Head of Programmes (part-time, mainly home office in Madrid, Spain)
- Ilaria Specos, Event Organization & Project Manager (full-time, paid with third-party funds)
- Sophie Glas, Marketing (part-time, project based)
- André Kirberg, Digital Strategist (part-time, paid with third-party funds)
- Amparo López-Corral, Newsletter Editor (project based, in Madrid, Spain).
- Sophie Peikert – Accounting, Membership (part-time, paid with third-party funds)
- Interns (each for up to 3 months): Elisabeth Pilhofer, Alexandra Rogalli, Selvi Göktepe, Christine Chilcott, Marina Knötzinger

Managing Director Isabelle Henn was on maternity leave in 2015, her duties were mainly carried out by Beatriz Blanch.

### Volunteers

sculpture network has an active network of voluntary coordinators, who represent the organization in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Scandinavia, Spain, Switzerland and Great Britain. They organize Dialogues in their regions and are committed to helping sculpture network achieve our objectives.

- Neus Bergua in Barcelona, Spain
- Anne Berk in Netherlands
- Beatriz Carbonell in Logrono, North Spain
- Christine Chilcott in Scandinavia
- Patricia Hoffmann in Berlin, Germany
- Stefanie Krome in Carrara, Italy

- Laura Lebetkin in London, Great Britain
- Stefano Pesce in Ticino, Switzerland and North Italy
- Beatriz Quintana in Madrid, Spain
- Christiane Tureczek in Switzerland
- Marjan Verhaeghe in Belgium
- Michael Zwingmann in Hannover, Germany

Other volunteers contribute to sculpture network's success at the head office in Munich and around Europe.

## 7. Board

As of 31 December 2015 the Board is composed of the following members:

- Ralf Kirberg, Chairman
- Helmut Pütz
- Isabelle Henn

They are responsible for the organization's financial and legal affairs in accordance with §26 BGB (German Civil Code).

The Extended Board consists of the members of the Board and the following members:

- Hartmut Stielow, Vice-Chairman
- Beatriz Blanch
- Judith Collins

They provide curatorial consultancy and international liaising.

sculpture network wishes to especially thank members, donors, sponsors, volunteers, board members, coordinators, team members and collaborating partners for their continued support and belief in the project. Without their help sculpture network would not be possible.

Munich/ Germany March 2016



Ralf Kirberg  
Chairman of the Board



Isabelle Henn  
Managing Director