

Activity Account and Annual Report 2005 Sculpture Network

International Programme

In 2005 Sculpture Network carried out three successful „meetings + lectures“, enabling members and interested guests to participate in fruitful dialogue. The venues, namely Zollikon (Zürich), Otterloo, Utrecht and den Haag, as well as Berlin underline the international character of our organisation. An event of a more regional character was a small exhibition in Munich.

The strategic consideration underlying our programme in 2005 and 2006 was to establish Sculpture Network internationally and to gain experience in offering various types of events.

In addition, the intention was to emphasize the autonomy of our European organisation versus ISC in the United States. This fact found external expression in the change of name to Sculpture Network, a decision made in an extraordinary Association Meeting on May 13, 2005.

During the planning of our international “meetings + lectures” for 2005 and 2006 we found our estimation confirmed that the diversity of countries in Europe, the many differences in people and culture, languages, mentalities and established structures represent an exceptional challenge.

However, we have experienced the pleasant fact that our contacts and networking in the various countries have quickly led to a concrete beginning of promotional work. In Warsaw this will again be confirmed.

Members and Communication

Sculpture Network presently accounts for approximately 160 members in 12 different countries, all connected directly through the membership directory on our website and through the chatroom. Artists’ portfolios and art dealers’ collections present an effective basis for self-portrayal and for the initiation of contact.

The same is true for museums and sculpture parks through the list of links. In 2005 our website www.sculpture-network.org was visited by about 10,000 persons, presently by 1000 per month.

The newsletter has now been established as a medium for information in addition to the magazine „Sculpture“.

An important purpose of Sculpture Network is the dissemination of our idea in interested circles. In “meetings + lectures” approximately 100 members and about 200 guests have met for personal talks and exchange of ideas. Our invitation to Warsaw was sent to some 2500 recipients, along with our flyer containing information on our work. In 2006 this number will at least double. The expansion of these contacts, their fostering and cultivation is an important part of communication and of our programme work.

We have decided to distribute our information in English and in individual cases to add the language of the particular country. As our financial situation allows and as we gain more members in the various countries, we will expand on the use of languages.

Finances

Sculpture Network's financial situation is sound but limited. The extensive programme in 2005 was funded by the balance carried forward from 2004, by membership dues 2005 and by donations.

Moreover, we have set up reserves, totalling approximately EUR 10,000, compiled of membership dues and specific contributions, thus establishing the foundation of our company capital. Particulars can be gathered from the balance sheet dated 31 December 2005.

The profit and loss figures for this period show the manner in which programme expenditures are divided among the various projects. It is particularly positive to note that the administration costs are less than 10% of total expenditures. This, as well as the realisation of our programme work, was made possible solely by the extensive voluntary commitment of a group of members and the executive committee. This work was evaluated and acknowledged in the editorial of the second newsletter. It amounted to a sum of EUR 370,00.

Individual reports on the three „meetings + lectures“ 2005:

Zollikon 24.02.2005: Museum „Stiftung für Eisenplastik“ (Foundation for Iron Sculpture)

On 24 February 2005 a lecture was given at the "Foundation for Iron Sculpture – Collection Dr. Hans Koenig" in Zollikon/Zurich, Switzerland. Chairman Ralf Kirberg welcomed over 100 guests, among them several museum directors, artists, collectors and art dealers. He introduced the work of Sculpture Network, then still known as ISC-E.

Dr. Gottfried Leinz, Vice-Director of the Foundation Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, Germany, one of the best known museums of sculpture in Europe, gave a talk on "The future of Monuments". Using the example of Christo's "The Gates" in New York's Central Park, he described the role of contemporary art in public areas and provided a preview of future tendencies in contemporary sculpture, in particular with regard to monuments.

The ideas that set the trends nowadays and of which we become aware are those of architects rather than those of traditional sculptors or technical artists. Architects become sculptors and sculptors work as architects. Dr. Leinz gave a passionate appeal for "lighthouses" as monuments of the future – both literally and figuratively.

The intentionally provocative talk did not miss its target; it was discussed intensively and controversially until late that night, once again proving Sculpture Network to be an interesting forum for discussion.

Before the event, several members had the opportunity to enjoy a private tour, guided by the collector of the "Fondation Looser" in Zurich, one of Switzerland's most interesting

private collections, including major works by Giacommetti, Twombly, de Kooning and Judd, among others.

Bernd Stieghorst, Zürich

Otterloo, Utrecht, Den Haag 6.+7.11.2005: Kröller-Müller-Museum, Atelier Ruud Kuijers, Muzeum Beelden aan Zee

On 06-November and 07-November 2005, sculpture network invited its members and many others to an Art-tour in the Netherlands. Even during the preparations, which started in the early spring, the Dutch showed great interest to be partners for this event.

The initial contacts with Den Haag Sculptuur, Gemeentemuseum and with sculptor Ruud Kuijser were made by Ralf Kirberg during a visit to the Netherlands. Early plans to hold a joint membership meeting with Den Haag Sculptuur in June had to be abandoned due to scheduling difficulties. Our new contact for an event in November was the Museum Beelden aan Zee in Den Haag, Scheveningen. With our ideas, the museum spontaneously accepted being the host for the event.

Sculpture Network and Beelden aan Zee are both committed to promote sculpture and depend heavily on volunteers to accomplish various tasks.

Having plenty of time, we expanded the idea of a membership meeting with museum-visit into a 2-day Art-tour including a guided visit of the Kröller-Müller-Sculpture Park near Otterloo, a studio-visit with Ruud Kuijser, and a set of talks organized by Jan Teeuwisse, Art director Beelden aan Zee and Pius Knüsel, Director of the Swiss Cultural Foundation Pro Helvetia. With the very cooperative help of Roland de Jong Orlando, Nederlandse Kring van Beeldhouwers, a large number of dutch colleagues followed our invitation. Altogether we were 75 participants. The many new encounters, the individual exchanges and the flood of intense impressions are once more proof for the necessity of such events that give us the opportunity to get to know one another. We left late Monday evening energized and encouraged to hold on and to continue this work.

Hartmut Stielow, Gehrden

**Modern Sculpture after World War II
A symposium Held by Sculpture Network in Cooperation with the
Bernhard-Heiliger-Foundation on 18 and 19 November 2005 in the
Martin-Gropius-Building in Berlin**

A symposium offered as a forum for sculptors, scientists and others interested in art attracted about 130 visitors from Germany, Switzerland and Poland to the Martin-Gropius-Building in Berlin on the 18th and 19th of November last year. The Bernhard-Heiliger-Retrospective was the occasion that initiated a series of seven lectures, analysing post-1945 sculpture from manifold viewpoints. Professional tours of the exhibitions, illustrating both art historical and technical perspectives, as well as an opportunity for personal encounters and discussions rounded off the event. Several art objects were representative of the present, demonstrating to visitors the many-faceted concepts of post-war modern sculpture, anywhere between traditionalism and innovation.

The kick-off of the event was Dr. Marc Wellmann's presentation on Heiliger's work in the field of tension of post-war Berlin. He expanded on his own art-historical remarks during a subsequent tour of the Heiliger-Retrospective, with the help of Jenny Richter, who

works at the Foundation. Hartmut Stielow, former master student, was able to illustrate exciting technical issues and challenges of sculpture using the works in the exhibition.

After an introduction by Dr. Birgit Möckel, who organized the symposium for sculpture network, a presentation by Dr. Birk Ohnesorge shed light on the early, still primarily figurative, post-war period. His talk was followed by Dr. Veronika Wiegartz, Dieter Brunner and Dr. Fritz Jacobi who focused on selected topics: the ornament, the bust and the torso. Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Ullrich and Prof. Dr. Christa Lichtenstern presented works by Ernst Hermanns as representative of the Young West and works by Henry Moore and Picasso as protagonists of international modern art. Chairman Ralf Kirberg addressed the challenges that Sculpture Network will face in the future.

On this occasion, the idea behind Sculpture Network and what it has to offer became very evident, not only to its present membership but also to the professional public and interested laymen. For participants, the symposium was a welcome opportunity to foster personal dialogue and to cultivate new contacts. Many thanks go to all who made this event possible.

The full program can be found on our website: www.sculpture-network.org

Birgit Möckel, Berlin

A selection of appropriate literature:

Dieter Brunner (Hg.): Die obere Hälfte. Die Büste seit Auguste Rodin, Edition Braus im Wachter Verlag, 2005

Fritz Jacobi: Figur und Gegenstand. Malerei und Plastik in der Kunst der DDR aus der Sammlung der Nationalgalerie Berlin, Bilderheft der Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Heft 82-83, Berlin 1995

Zum Torso auch: Werner Schnell: Der Torso als Problem der modernen Kunst, Gebr. Mann Verlag, Berlin 1980

Christa Lichtenstern: Henry Moore, Zweiteilig Liegende I, Insel Verlag, Frankfurt 1994;

Christa Lichtenstern, in: Henry Moore: Epoche und Echo. Englische Bildhauerei im 20. Jahrhundert, Ausstellungskatalog, Kunsthalle Würth, Schwäbisch Hall 2005, Swiridoff Verlag, Künzelsau

Birk Ohnesorge: Ein anderer Zeitgeist. Positionen figürlicher Bildhauerei nach 1950, mit einem Essay von Werner Hofmann, Gebr. Mann Verlag, Berlin 2005

Ferdinand Ullrich (Hg.): Henry Moore – Liegende. Kunstaussstellung der Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen 1999. Mit Beiträgen von Arie Hartog, Christa Lichtenstern, u.a., Wienand Verlag, Köln 1999

Ferdinand Ullrich (Hg.): Kunst des Westens. Deutsche Kunst 1945-1960. Kunstaussstellung der Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen 1996, Wienand Verlag, Köln 1996

Marc Wellmann (Hg.): Bernhard Heiliger. Die Köpfe, Wienand Verlag, Köln 2000

Marc Wellmann (Hg.): Bernhard Heiliger 1915-1995, Monographie und Werkverzeichnis, Wienand Verlag, Köln 2005

Veronika Wiegartz, in: Prometheus. Schuld und Sühne in der Bildhauerkunst der Nachkriegszeit, Ausstellungskatalog, Gerhard-Marcks-Haus, Bremen 2005

Veronika Wiegartz, in: Konzentration und Offenheit. Ewald Mataré und Joseph Beuys, Ausstellungskatalog, Gerhard-Marcks-Haus, Bremen 2005

Preview of International Activities in 2006 and 2007

Our first event in 2006 will be on the 5th and 6th of May at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, incorporating "meetings + lectures" including a main presentation by Magdalena Abakanowicz and a visit to the Centre of Polish Sculpture in Oronsko. In autumn Graz, Austria and Spain will follow. For 2007 we have planned "meetings + lectures" in Great Britain and in other countries.

Conclusion

Sculpture Network has made considerable progress in 2005, attracting attention and recognition, naturally at first in parts of Europe. To expand in this area is our goal for the coming years. With increasing recognition and growing membership we will be in a position to enhance our services on behalf of and in the interests of sculptural art.

31.03.2006 Ralf.Kirberg @sculpture-network.org