

Activity Account and Annual Report 2006

International program

In 2006, sculpture network was able to essentially intensify the internal and external programming work. We directly profited through three important conditions: First, based on the previous year's experiences we began scheduling much earlier. Second, we were able to distribute the workload to several more volunteer helpers. - And third, we now dispose over a self supporting international network of people and organisations who associate with our idea.

The two successful "meetings + lectures" in Warsaw/ Oronsko (Poland) and Graz (Austria) aimed to involve sculpture interested groups outside the network. By organising these events we accomplished to provide the platform for meetings and discussions between these parties and our members. (Read more in reports below).

Regional meetings in London + Leeds (United Kingdom) and Hinwil, near Zurich (Switzerland) were organised for our members living in the area to further get to know each other and for thought exchange.

Members from the Berlin (Germany) area had the opportunity to follow a very special invitation by Mr + Mrs. Piepenbrock to see visit their sculpture collection. The members of the Hanover area got to enjoy a private view of the exhibition "Neue Kunst in alten Gärten" - "New Art in old Gardens"

The preliminary considerations of 2005, to establish the profile of sculpture network internationally, by gaining experience and knowledge through the organisation of events with diverse character have fruited in very positive results. Today sculpture network finds a wide range recognition, including the internationally active cultural organisations and museum scene.

Members and communication

As of this report, sculpture network counts 240 members from 13 countries who are connected through us. This is a significant 50% gain of new members within a year.

The annual members meeting 2006 was held in Warsaw ahead of the "meetings + lectures" event. The auditing of accounts was approved with no rejections and the Directors board and auditors released of their fiscal responsibilities.

Within the last year we expanded our 12 issue newsletter into a lively Communication platform for our members. We invite you to through your submissions make this bulletin even more on the spot and informing. Meanwhile the news letter is published in German, English and Spanish. Based on the 98% positive member feedback we can now resign from the future subscription of the American "sculpture" magazine.

Our member artist and gallery portfolios on the networks web-site offer an effective form of self-promotion and contact initiative. The same goes for museums and sculpture parks with our web link collection, which we will plan to extend more this year.

Our website www.sculpture-network.org had about 31.000 visitors in 2006, currently 3.000 a month, in comparison hits doubled to the previous year.

An important mission of sculpture network is the distribution of our idea in the targeted subject interested circles. On average, about 100 members meet, discuss and exchange directly with around 200 new guests at each "meetings + lectures" event.

Close to 6.000 addressees receive our invitations to our meetings and through these are informed about our work to promote sculpture. In 2007 this number will at least double. To expand these contacts, groom and nourish them is one of the main pillars of our communication and hands on profiling work.

Gains through networking

Our members as guests of our "meetings + lectures" as well as people and institutions in the periphery of sculpture network gain manifold benefits from using our network. The participation and integration in the network produces many individual success stories for which the following headings only serve as examples- many get-together-s are happening also without the board hearing of.

Cooperations:

- Cooperation artist/ art professor
- Student workshops in sculpture studios
- Collector loans artwork to curator for exhibition
- Agreements of joint ventures (co works + exhibitions)
- Artist meet with authors for publications and shows
- Authors find sponsors for publications
- Sculptors/ media artists find intendant
- Art consultant supports curator with sculpture park program

Initiative on sale of artwork:

- Gallery finds more artist to represent
- Contact collector/ gallery for purchase
- collector meets artist, artist finds collector
- Mediation on information for competitions

Help:

- leads to find hard to find material
- Curator meets artists who are of interest
- Door opener for international sculpture projects
- Public announcement of private collections (if desired)
- Mediation of press contacts
- Help with research for sculpture-web sites

Thought exchange:

- Linking of professionals
- personal exchange
- Thought provoking + change of mind-set
- Studio/ community
- New impulses through cross media encounters

Finding of purpose:

- New meaning of things through engaging in collaboration, volunteer work
- Professional profiling through collaboration and team work (privileges through honorary post , entree to impossible to get to doors)

On top of this tangible benefit, the creation and further development of our network signifies an important base for the realization of our main goal: "To improve the overall recognition of sculpture in society".

Structure

To improve our organisational structure we won so called "Country correspondents" for Spain and the United Kingdom. Through their presence and country specific knowledge they much better can pursue our aims locally. This helps us with the winning of new members and the organisation of our "meeting + lectures".

Finances

The financial state of sculpture network has through the increase of memberships improved. We managed to finance the extensive 2006 program through a small forward carried balance and the membership fees. As in the case of Graz we received a grant from Sculpture Park Austria and the provincial prefect of Styria as well. Although as before several larger individual donations were necessary to break even.

Additionally, we increased our reserve funds through a appropriated donation to around 12.000 EUROS. Find details on the balance sheet from 31. December 2006.

The all inclusive income statement for this period shows how the costs for our programming are distributed to the various projects. We would like to point out, that again we achieved to keep the administrative costs below 10% of the total expenditures. This achievement and the realisation of our program was only possible through the priceless honorary labour from the members circle and the board of trustees.

Individual reports about the six meetings in 2006:

"meeting + lectures" in Warsaw Poland "Academy of fine Arts" + Oronsko "Centre for Sculpture (CRP)" May 5.+ 6.2006

On May 5th 2006, sculpture network invited its members and numerous guests from Poland and abroad to Warsaw. In the Academy of fine Arts the participants met to listen to two top notch lectures and for personal exchange. As the prelude for the event, Dr. Piotr Szubert, professor at the academy lectured on contemporary currents in polish sculpture. In his speech he made a strong point about how in Poland great importance is attached to the students' good knowledge of materials and the extensive training of craft skills. The world renowned sculptor Prof. Magdalena Abakanowicz delivered as the second key note speaker a impressive presentation about her philosophy, her works and their contexts. In this speech she introduced her most important bodies of work, which in their development closely tie in with Mrs. Abakanowicz personal fate. Her sculpture most often focuses on the human individual, but also an individual's isolation in masses. A tour through several different studios and workshops of the academy and a private view of an exhibition in the palace of cultures concluded this eventful day. The dean of the ASP sculpture faculty, Prof. Piotr Gawron personally guided our visit. The attendees had an inside look on the Fine Arts Academy's teaching methods and training facilities. Further they received an impression of the current education and relay work for the sculpture cause in Poland.

After a short Members meeting on May 6 the sculpture network party made an excursion to Oronsko, centre for Polish sculpture (CRP). A vintage estate surrounded by a expansive park. After a 1 1/2 hour drive, Jan Gagacki, the director of CRP

welcomed us upon arrival. After the reception the artistic director Mariusz Knorowski lead us through the park that features mostly Polish artists works. While on tour through the park we also had the chance to visit several different workshops that are part of the centre. Also we had the opportunity to view a current exhibition of sculptor Jan de Weryha-Wysoczanski. CPR presented us with a new daring museum concept that will be built in the hub of the facility. Following the tour we indulged in a feast for our taste buds with Polish food specialities. Within a very short time all the people present were engaged in conversation and discussion. This "meeting + lectures" was intensively used for networking and the dialog between East and West happened naturally.

Beata Nowak, Pöcking

**"Special event" in Lenthe (Hanover, Germany) August 26.2006
Preview exhibition "Neue Kunst in alten Gärten" (New Art in old Gardens)**

sculpture network together with the Association of 'New art in old Gardens' held a preview of the exhibition 'New Art in old Gardens 2006'
The show featured 12 artistic positions interacting with and reflecting on two English landscape gardens in the Upper and lower manor of Lenthe near Hanover.

The host of the lower manor, our member Hans Jürgen v. Richthofen greeted 50 guests for the preview, including several of the participating artists like Susanne Donath, Alexander Steig, Matten Vogel and our American member Peter Lundberg. A performance of Hina Strüver was a special highlight for the evening. Also the curators Hannes Malte Mahler and Hartmut Stielow guided the guests through the art works.

400 more guests attended the official opening of the gardens the next day. Another highlight was the visit to the world's first 24 hour museum, featuring the collection of our member Robert Simon.

Hartmut Stielow, Gehrden, Germany

**"meeting + lectures" in Graz "Sculpture park Austria" September 28.+
29.2006: "Sculpture in Public Space"**

We welcomed over 100 attendees from 11 countries for the different events of our international symposium in Graz. A warm atmosphere with lots of talking, reconnecting and getting to know new contacts settled in already for the "Warming up" event on Thursday night in the Graz congress centre.

Friday in turn demanded with the packed itinerary true high performances from the lecturers and listeners. The day was filled with numerous exiting lectures, presentations and interesting discussions.

Already with the theme of the first emphasis: 'Sculpture & Architecture' it fast became clear how ambivalent the relationship between the two practices is and how necessary it is to clear this back log in communication.

After the presentations of several projects this became very evident in the following discussion when sculptors and architects debated over the "selling" of their works. The day's highlight was the presentation of an overview history of modern sculpture based on mathematical- technical considerations since 1860 / 1890 by Prof. Peter Weibel (ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany)

In the evening we were guests of the New Gallery. The director Dr. Christa Steinle received us in the magnificent mirror salon.

The visit to the Austrian Sculpture park took place under "Kaiserwetter" - a perfectly sunny day. The buffet provided us with the culinary refreshments necessary for the upcoming physical challenge- an impressive performance of a international 5 performer dance company directed under Christopher Roman. The dance company lead the viewers across the park to the individual sculptures through a danced dialog.

The closing reception of the symposium was held on chateau Eybesfeld near Graz, heartily hosted by Christine & Bertrand Conrad Eybesfeld. After a walk to site specific art works in their park, they had organised a discourse with Max Neuhaus, the New York sound artist who currently worked on site on his installation. Following they explained their plans and visions for their thrilling project. The intensive and eventful symposium closed with a lively discussion, as it started 3 days before.

Bernd Stieghorst, Zurich

"Regional Member Meeting" in London + Leeds October 21.+22.2006

From October 20th.- 23. 2006 A small delegation from sculpture network travelled to London and Leeds for a first regional member meeting. In London we visited with Perry Green from the Henry Moore Foundation and made first contacts with the British Arts Council. In the framework of our studio visits to our members Nigel Hall and William Pye we met besides our local members with representatives of the Royal British Society of Sculptors and the White Chapel Gallery.

This first meeting already led to intensive talks about joint projects in the future. the following day we travelled to Leeds to visit the Henry Moore Institute and it's important research centre for contemporary sculpture(<http://www.henry-moore-fdn.co.uk/>). Later in the afternoon we toured the grounds of Yorkshire Sculpture Park (<http://www.yssp.co.uk>). The visit to the UK was completed by an invitation from our member and UK correspondent Rob Ward for a wonderful meal and evening at his house and visit to his studio the next day.

Isabelle Henn, München

"Special event" in Berlin October 27.2006 Visit of the Piepenbrock collection's sculpture park

On October 27.2006 a group of us sculpture network members and friends visited the sculpture park of Dr. Hartwig & Maria- Theresia Piepenbrock in Berlin-Gatow. we were able to view the collection in the park on a bright sunny autumn day. The Lemm villa is owned by the Piepenbrock's since 1996. The majority of their extensive sculpture collection is placed in the ample park surrounding the villa along the banks of the Havel River.

Mrs. Piepenbrock and the artistic director/ curator Mrs. Anke Hervol greeted us at the gate to the park and introduced us to the history of the estate and their collection. The Piepenbrock collection is an outstanding formation of German art from the 20th. Century. In addition the sculpture collection includes also works from international artists. All sculptures in the collection are on display. In all private rooms or offices of the villa one will find art works. An art depository where works of art submerge for

decades does not exist. All the acquired art is either displayed in Osnabrück, Berlin or in public exhibitions.

The 1988 established ("Kulturstiftung Hartwig Piepenbrock") - Hartwig Piepenbrock foundation awards the highest sculpture price in Germany, the 'Piepenbrock Price for Sculpture' (50'000 EUR) and the 'Piepenbrock award for young Talent in Sculpture' (12'500 EUR) bi-annually. which, besides the price money includes an exhibition in the Hamburger Bahnhof (Berlin) and one semester as a guest professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in Berlin.

Susanne Specht, Berlin

"Regional Member Meeting" in Hinwil (Zurich) November 6th.2006

Approximately 30 members and guests from Switzerland, Austria and Germany met November 6th. 2006 in Hinwil near Zurich. Our members, the Beck- Lipsi family invited us to a remarkable happening in their house.

The evening began with an introduction by Hans Beck to the eventful history of the Beck and Lipsi families. Followed by a wonderful piano concert played by the hostess. As the evenings highlight, the painter and sculptor Johannes Dörflinger from Constance, Germany presented his spectacular 'Art Border project along the boundary of Germany and Switzerland. Rounded off with a rustic buffet and good wine, the attendees soon engaged in lively conversation and exchanges. The viewing of the large archive about the sculptor Maurice Lipsi which is displayed as a small exhibition in the upper rooms of the family's house was another fine treat.

Bernd Stieghorst, Zürich

Outlook to international activities in 2007 & 2008

In 2007 we first start with a "regional member meeting" in the Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin on April 21. and then hold our "meeting + lectures" event: "Escultura en la Calle" in Barcelona May 3rd to 5th. We will follow with some smaller events in the second half of the year.

In 2008 we plan in cooperation with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to hold our "meeting + lectures" in the United Kingdom.

Conclusion

sculpture network again made another big step forward in 2006. By gaining recognition and acknowledgement, our goal to improve the acceptance of sculpture appears more solid and finds its support in a clearly recognisable trend of growing interest for sculpture and the three dimensional arts. Our international acceptance has by now grown roots. The network is advancing and its European dimension is obviously visible.

Ralf Kirberg,
5.03.2007

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