

Activity Account and Annual Report 2009

sculpture network

Summary

sculpture network was able to further develop its programme through continual expansion of its international organisation and structure. We were able to promote the idea of supporting sculpture within a large and ever-growing group of art enthusiasts by means of our well-attended international events, our website and our monthly Newsletter. By word of mouth among members themselves, however, there was dynamic network growth.

2009 represented a milestone in the development of sculpture network:

- New logo and brand-marking (printed material)
- Enhanced PR on the idea of sculpture and collaboration with institutions.
- New website with many additional functions
- Newsletter with a new design, reader analysis function and services
- Fifth anniversary celebration together with 300 guests at a fine event at the sculpture studios of the bbk in Berlin.
New members were attracted – positive press review
- Many exciting Regional Members' Meetings in various countries and in October our annual symposium in Liechtenstein, with an attractive adjunct programme.
Many members and friends had an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas within the framework of sculpture.

The growing number of members – over 700 in 36 countries at the end of 2009, over 830 in 43 countries by 31 July 2010 – proves that many people are interested in sculpture and that our organisation is needed. This positive development is very gratifying and strengthens the organisation in its efforts to meet the challenges of the future.

The last days of the year were devoted to a new idea of enhancing personal contacts and creating livelier networking among our members: the sculpture network New Year's Brunch (NYB). Thirty members spontaneously responded to our request for hosts. In the end, our New Year's Brunch took place on the 17th of January 2010 at nineteen different locations in six different countries with approximately 600 participants! It was a great success for all of us.
We look forward to the next NYB2011 on 16th of January 2011.

Programmes

Our activities were further intensified in 2009. Regular reports appeared in our Newsletter (in English, German and Spanish) and on our website (in English and German).

Symposia 2009:

Our VIII. International Sculpture Symposium "Sculpture and Architecture – an Ambivalent Relationship" took place in Vaduz, Liechtenstein from the 15th to the 18th of October in cooperation with the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, the Liechtensteiner Hochschule, the "Sitterwerk" and the Zeppelin University, with over 100 participants attending from 12 nations.

Sculptors and attending Institutions were given the chance this year for the second time to present their work and their projects to the public via catalogs, etc. in an adjacent showroom. This installation gave a very positive impulse to the exchange of ideas and to conversation in general.

Regional Members' Meetings 2009:

- 01. February Heidelberg (D)
- 28. February Barcelona (E)
- 25. April Madrid (E)
- 07. June Cologne (D)
- 02. July Kostanjevica (SL)
- 28. September Vienna (A)
- 12. December Valencia (E)

Fifth Anniversary Celebration in Berlin:

On the 4th of July sculpture network celebrated its fifth year of existence in the sculptors' studios of the bbk Berlin with about 300 international guests from the fields of art, politics and commerce. The keynote speech was held by Prof.Dr. Robert Kudielka of the University of the Arts in Berlin. In addition, on Saturday afternoon before the celebration and on the following Sunday, 13 artist members opened their studios for visitors. Curator Dr. Marc Wellmann offered a tour of the Georg Kolbe Museum with its exhibition "Romantic Machines", a show of contemporary kinetic art.

These events were attended by a total of approx. 1000 international members and guests.

We were able to attract other important museums, art collections and foundations, as well as various sculptor organisations as collaborators and to further enhance our supranational network of people and organisations who share our goals and ideas.

Members and Communication

With over 700 members at the end of the year, we increased our membership by 50% over the end of the year 2008.

The 5th Regular Association Meeting was held on the 18th of October, 2009 in Vaduz on the occasion of our international Sculpture Symposium held there. The Closing Account, audited and approved without exception by Deloitte & Touche GmbH, was unanimously accepted. The Executive Committee was given approval.

Our new website went online on the 1st of July 2009 with many new services and functions in an up-to-date design. This has contributed considerably to the positive development of the network within the last year, having attracted many new members to join our initiative.

Information can now be found and presented more easily; at the same time there is considerably more information offered:

- Members' databank: Visitors and members can directly search for and locate interesting persons and institutions in individual countries and establish contact with them.
- Artists' portfolios: The revised presentation of the portfolios enables a quick review of the artistic work of our members; pictures of the individual pieces can now be viewed on a whole screen scale. The artists can update their portfolio themselves, adding new work at any time.
- Opportunities databank: Members can inform themselves daily of current tenders, competitions and artist-in-residency programmes. Of the worldwide offers, our research team selects relevant information for all sculptors and presents it clearly in the databank.
- Services databank: At the end of the year our new services databank went online. Today in many areas one is dependent upon professional support. Finding the right service provider is often extremely time-consuming and difficult. Here we intend to make available to the whole network that knowledge and personal experience which is already there through our members. We are very grateful for their cooperation in this project.
- News portal: Visitors to our website can inform themselves daily of current affairs and news from the world of sculpture.
- Calendar of events: We provide a comprehensive, European wide calendar of sculpture events with information on ongoing exhibitions, art fairs, biennials, sculpture network events, workshops, seminars, symposia, etc.
- Book Reviews and Recommendations
- A list of links

We have approximately 10,000 hits per month on our website, and increasing.

In the wake of the new website, the design of the Newsletter was also revised. Desired information can be individually selected; links lead to more details; the layout is up-to-date, adjusted to the reading habits of internet users. Our Newsletter has proved to be an important instrument for a broad group of readers in finding information and in networking. It is distributed among some 10,000 interested persons in all of Europe and makes therewith an important contribution to practical cultural exchange.

An important goal of sculpture network is to spread our idea within interested circles. In Regional Meetings and in International Sculpture Symposia ca. 1,000 members and guests have met for direct discussion and exchange of ideas. Through our invitations, Newsletters and flyers some 25,000 persons interested in art have been informed of our work in advancing the art of sculpture. Expanding these contacts and keeping in active touch is an important part of our communication and practical programme work.

Finances

The financial status of sculpture network has improved due to the increase in membership, however, without yet the possibility of covering the costs of the head office. The broad scope of programmes in 2009 were financed by membership dues and, in the case of Liechtenstein, by participants' fees and partial coverage by our cooperating partners.

To cover the expenses of the website and marketing efforts, we used our reserve funds of 40,000 Euros. However, the costs of the investments were considerably higher due to greater demands and expectations, resulting in the need for an interim credit of 30,000 Euros. This will be paid for by the increasing amount of membership dues. Details can be viewed in the Balance Sheet dated 31.12.2009. It is especially noteworthy that administrative costs have dropped further to a figure of 5.6% of total expenditures.

This fact and the realization of our programmed events were possible only through considerable voluntary work by our members and the Board, regularly reviewing its own efforts. At this point, many thanks go out to all of you.

Non-Profitability

The appropriate Office of Finances in Berlin has confirmed our non-profitability status for all years since we were founded. If we continue to follow the goals set in our By-Laws, this will also be confirmed in the future.

Preview for 2010 and 2011

For 2010 we have planned a number of Regional * Meetings in different countries (the dates are published in the calendar on the website).

Our first members' exhibition entitled "European Sculpture - Difference & Diversity" takes place in Grugliasco/ Turin, Italy from the 16th of September to the 6th of November 2010. Our Italian cooperation partner is the cultural organisation martin Martini Arte Internazionale. 168 artists from 20 countries participated in the call for proposals. An independent jury selected 30 artist from 10 countries. You may find the list of artists on our website.

On the opening weekend of the exhibition we organize our IX International Sculpture Forum with the title "European Sculpture - Difference & Diversity in Practice" (16-18.09.2010). The conference starts on Thursday evening, 16.09.2010 with the opening of our members' exhibition. Our lecture and networking programme on Friday, 17.09.2010 begins with a lecture by the Dutch sculptor Auke de Vries" followed by two lectures on the development and trends in the Italian and European sculpture scene. Friday afternoon is devoted to our artist members and their work. Selected artists of the exhibition will present their work. Afterwards all participants of the event (also including members who are not represented in the exhibition) have the opportunity to present their catalogues and works in the SHOWROOM. In the evening our membership Association Meeting takes place. On Saturday, 18.09.2010 we will be visiting major art institutions and sculpture spaces in Turin and its surroundings by bus. You may find the detailed programme on our website.

* since the beginning of the year 2010 we decided to leave out the word „members“ as it seemed to imply a members only event.

We will continue to expand and intensify our contacts with the new EU countries.

Further aims are:

- Expansion of information available on the website
- Enhancement of our European-wide cooperation with institutions and cultural organisations in the field of sculpture
- Creation of a study group of art historians and curators in the field of sculpture, as well as the development of further teams on specific topics
- Increasing the dynamics of our network among members
- Enhancement of our artists' portfolios
- Development of a sculpture network project dedicated to education

We are coming ever closer to our goal of becoming the competence center for sculpture in Europe. Help us to build by participating actively – we look forward to your ideas and suggestions!

31 January(10 August 2010

Ralf Kirberg/ Isabelle Henn