

MINUTES

of the 4th Regular Association Meeting

SCULPTURE NETWORK e.V.

held on September 7th 2008 in Leeds
in the conference hall of Bodington Hall, University of Leeds

Item 1: Welcome by the Chairman; Ratification of the Agenda

The session was opened by the Chairman at 9:05 o'clock. The meeting was held in English.

The Chairman greeted all members and guests in his own as well as in the name of the board members present, Hartmut Stielow and Rob Ward. He included in his greeting those members who were not able to come to Leeds.

He established that the meeting was called in order and on time, according to regulations in Article VII of the by-laws.

Item 2: Acceptance of the annual report of the Executive Committee of the Auditor's report

The Chairman put up for discussion the annual report 2007 which has been sent out to the members together with the invitation. Due to the detailed presentation of sculpture network's program work in the annual report, there was no need for discussion.

The Chairman reported that sculpture network currently has 430 members in 25 countries. The objective of the Board is to achieve a listing of 500 members by the end of the year 2008. The Chairman asks all members for support in the realisation of this objective.

Following the Chairman shortly explains the annual balance. Administration costs have further decreased to less than 7% of the budget; this is a very positive result. The income of the organisation (membership fees, symposia contributions, sponsoring and donations) has added up to EUR 60.050, expenses mounted up to EUR 47.600 for the symposium in Barcelona, newsletter, programme work, website, marketing, staff and administration. Almost the complete surplus of EUR 12.440 has been put into our reserves in order to be ready for future investments e.g. website re-launch. For additional consolidation of our capital resources we would like to accumulate as much reserves as we have received in donations since the founding of the organisation. Till the end of 2007 sculpture network has received EUR 73.000 in donations.

One more remark to the figures:

A very important reason for the low expenses of our organisation is that we receive some very expensive services, such as auditing, marketing advice, law and tax advice, etc. pro bono from friends and members of the network.

The amount of work which has been done voluntarily for the network can be numbered with about EUR 300,000 – 400,000. Finally we would like to state that as well the salary of our Business Manager Isabelle Henn is paid by another source, not by sculpture network.

This year we rounded up the standard membership to EUR 120 per year. Members from the countries which joined the European Union in 2004 pay only 50% of the fees. Like this we would like to accommodate membership for people from countries where purchasing power is still lower and we would like to create an important precondition for the development of sculpture network in the Eastern part of Europe. The members present appreciated this innovation.

The annual report and the balance were unanimously approved by members.

Ms Susanne Specht, Berlin, read the auditor's report which had been sent to members together with the invitation and the annual balance prior to the association meeting.

The report confirmed that the accounting process was correct and without objections and that all expenditures were carried out exclusively in pursuit of the association goals established in the articles of association.

The auditor's report was unanimously approved by members.

Item 3: Approval of the Executive Committee and the auditors

Mr Johannes von Stumm moved that the Board be approved for the year 2007.

The move was unanimously accepted, with the abstentions by the Board members present.

Therewith, all Board members have been approved for 2007. The Board thanked the members for their confidence.

A move was made by Mr Johannes von Stumm that the auditors also be approved. This move was accepted and approved with one abstention of Ms Susanne Specht.

Item 4: Election of auditors

The auditors need to be elected every two years. We are very happy that Mrs Susanne Specht and Mr Detlef Olufs are again at sculpture network's disposal for this function.

They have been unanimously accepted by the membership association (until 2010, inclusive) with one abstention of Ms Susanne Specht.

Item 5: Amendment of the statutes

The Chairman put up for discussion the three amendments of the statutes, which have been sent out to the members together with the invitation. He explains them in detail, no one has any questions. Therefore the Chairman made a move that the amendments be approved. The result was as follows:

1. Amendment in § XV.1 Satz 2: approved
2. Amendment in § XV.3: approved
3. Amendment in § XVI.3: approved

Item 6: Preview of Future Programme

The Chairman gave a review of the activities in 2008 and reported that in the first half of the year 100 new members could be won. Therewith the organisation approximated again a further step to the milestone of some 1,000 members which are necessary for the financial independence of the organisation.

Following the Chairman extended his heartfelt thanks to the organizers of the conference, especially to Rob Ward, host of this year's conference.

The Chairman then reported about various Regional Members' Meetings which have taken place in the first half of the year.

Furthermore he pointed to another novelty, our new opportunities newsletter which is sent out to the sculptors once a month. This newsletter is exclusively sent out to our members and is highly appreciated. Calls for proposals, submissions and competitions are very important and helpful for many sculptors. The details in the newsletter help them saving time which can then be spent on creative work.

The last topic of the discussion in the members' association meeting was the topic "collectors", initialized by the Chairman. Our network will fructify on the long run only if it fulfils an interdisciplinary approach; this means that not only artists but also many friends of the arts, collectors and intermediaries, meaning institutions, galleries and museums are part of the membership. At present we have slightly more than 60% of sculptors among our members; medium-term this needs to change again. The Chairman called the audience to discuss, help and give input to this topic.

The following discussion expressed the diversity of expectations of the membership. Consistently the membership highly appreciated the exchange of ideas and the personal contacts made through the network. Also different possibilities of supporting the sculptors in placing their work on the market have been addressed. Here the participants of the discussion attached great importance to the fact that any form of commercialisation should be avoided.

sculpture network being a supranational and interdisciplinary network of people is a novelty and needs openness for its development in the interest of sculpture. Future experiences will constantly make us reflect about our idea and the right way to head for. The Chairman thanked the audience for the vivid and fruitful discussion.

Item 7: Any Further Businesses

- no responses -

The Chairman closed the association meeting at 10:15 o'clock and thanked all members for their attendance and vivid and constructive contributions.

Pöcking, September 30, 2008

Isabelle Henn
Recording Clerk

Pöcking, September 30, 2008

Ralf Kirberg
Chairman