Europe’s largest platform for contemporary three-dimensional art: sculpture network

Since it was founded in 2004 sculpture network has established itself as Europe’s leading network for contemporary three-dimensional art. We are dedicated to enthusing others with our passion for sculpture. Our non-profit organisation supports artists’ initiatives and brings them into contact with curators, galleries, museums, art experts and art friends. An artwork’s prospects are often dependent on coincidence, contacts or encounters. Our aim is to boost those prospects.
With a dedicated and varied events programme and an extensive range of information on Internet, we raise the awareness, comprehension and appreciation of contemporary three-dimensional art amongst the greater public. Furthermore, we promote interaction and stimulate debate to create enhanced professional frameworks for artists.

Our interactive Internet portal, our newsletter in two languages, various social media channels and our multiple live events, enable around 25,000* people throughout Europe to keep in contact with each other. A team of voluntary coordinators in 10 countries support our members and liaise with initiatives and events relative to contemporary sculpture.

sculpture network has over 1,000 members in 40 countries.*

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*January 2015
A declaration of love
When I was 17 years old I was overwhelmed by a love that continues to enrich my life to this day. At that time, I had just reached the Port of Calais, burdened by my heavy rucksack. As I puffed my way to the Dover channel ferry, I suddenly found myself in front of Rodin’s sculpture “The Burghers of Calais”, and all of my travails were forgotten. With their dramatic air, the figures moved me in a way that no other work of art had before. It was love of sculpture at first sight. But even then, I was immediately aware of a problem: much too big for the living room!

Although this may sound facetious, size is a very real stumbling block for sculpture, as it is often perceived as something which is monumental, something for the public space. Speaking for myself, it wasn’t till 18 years after that intensive encounter, that I purchased my first sculpture in 1974. Whilst we grow up with pictures on our walls, the works of sculptors are somewhat more distant. A path to this art form is not easy to find. sculpture network’s aim is to help people discover it.

Together

The idea of sculpture network arose in 2003 as a result of a chance encounter with Hartmut Stielow. At the time this sculptor was much taken with a network idea he had discovered in the US. Until that time various groupings on the sculpture scene had kept themselves to themselves: on the one side artists, on the other art enthusiasts, here the gallery owners, there the museums – with everything further divided into national groups. The idea of establishing a network that would bring all these diverse groups in contact with one another was also very tempting for me.

A visit to Hartmut Stielow’s studio, with no specific aim, became a seminal moment, the germination of an alliance. From that time on we had a common goal: cross-border support of the concept of three-dimensional art. Specifically, to awaken interest, understanding and, ideally, love for the work of the artists.

Love at first sight is very much a one-off, moreover, my enthusiasm for a work of art is only triggered when I am aware of the story behind it. I therefore encourage all art lovers to seek dialogue with artists. This aids judgement, sharpens the eye, gladdens vision and makes collecting art easier.

This idea binds us at sculpture network and is always at the fore at our events, especially our international meetings, where our common interests and convictions easily overcome language barriers. I look forwards with confidence to the development of this love story, and trust it will spread its passion to many more places.
Networking:

Art requires a hub
Networking: requires a hub
“In 3 days at the International Forum in Bilbao I had over 50 intensive discussions with artists and art lovers from Chile, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Poland, Turkey and even New Zealand. I am still impressed by the mood, the sense of community and the avid intellectual interaction.”
Connections

sculpture network brings people together. Nothing can replace a personal encounter. A wide range of events provides the opportunity to make and develop contacts. Visiting studios and sculpture venues where people can meet and discuss, enables productive collaboration.

A European network is taking shape under sculpture network’s umbrella. It is made up of artists, private and public institutions, art professionals, educators, galleries and art lovers, looking for a contemporary approach to the visual arts.
Working for
A network can only work when there is a committed team behind it, working far beyond the normal bounds of obligation. sculpture network’s team and voluntary staff constitute an indispensable contribution to the success of our organisation throughout Europe.

An increasing number of international co-ordinators supports the network in their respective countries by organising events, establishing contacts and acting as liaising partners, for members and the general public.

Christiane Tureczek has been a sculpture network co-ordinator in Switzerland since 2013. Born in Klagenfurt in 1968, the artist/consultant lives in the canton of Ticino. Her multinational biography is indicative of the cross-border co-operation within the network. After living for a number of years in Greece, she has organised exhibitions for the LDX Artodrome Gallery in Europe, Asia and the USA.

Ms Tureczek, how did you become a co-ordinator at sculpture network?
It began with an enormous success that came as a real surprise to me. I organised an event in Switzerland within the scope of sculpture network’s new year’s brunch in 2013, in which over 1,500 people took part across Europe – an astonishing result! Afterwards I was asked if I would like to take on the position of co-ordinator in Switzerland. And I did!

There are many ways in which people can get involved, why did you pick sculpture network?
I am fully committed to the idea of sculpture network, that is, to create a value-added European network. Not just virtually on Internet, but also at live events where vibrant communication is possible. I find the incredible diversity of members very exciting and interesting. Additionally, I get to work with a great team, which is a lot of fun.

What tasks are you responsible for, specifically?
As I mentioned, I host a new year’s brunch in Switzerland, then 3 or 4 Dialogues per year in my area and take care of co-ordination in different regions, which are also linguistic regions in Switzerland. This can include presenting sculpture network to key art organizations, motivating interest about us in experts and artists and general public, recruiting other regional co-ordinators, etc. and representing sculpture network at key local events. Lastly, I try to support foreign members who are looking to establish contacts in Switzerland.

Are you already seeing the fruits of your network activities?
For sure! Curators or journalists have contacted some of our members through me. I have also been able to facilitate a number of exhibitions and, above all, sculpture network membership is steadily growing in Switzerland.

The benefits for the artists are clear. What impact do you think sculpture network has on society?
An open culture of interaction, without prejudice and beyond linguistic, religious or national borders is promoted. Friends of three-dimensional art find it easier to get in touch with each other to get detailed tips, information and contacts.
Our inclusive approach to contemporary sculpture is highlighted by topics addressed at our live events. The ambivalent relationship between sculpture and architecture, the symbiosis of haptic and virtual space, new technologies, materials and sound are some of the issues addressed at our forums.

Once a year sculpture network travels to a different country to organise an international forum in co-operation with prominent art institutions. Participants are offered a key discussion and networking platform, over the course of two and a half days. Renowned experts and artists discuss a selected theme, from their respective professional perspectives and local sculpture venues in the region are visited.

sculpture network
International Forums have taken place in:

- Linz, Austria
- Warsaw, Poland
- The Hague/Otterlo, Netherlands
- Celle, Germany
- Berlin, Germany
- Vaduz, Liechtenstein
- Zollikon/Zurich, Switzerland
- Grugliasco/Turin, Italy
- Barcelona, Spain
- Bilbao, Spain

Off the web and into real space – sculpture network brings people together, people who are united by a special interest in three-dimensional art. Local events are initiated throughout Europe with our Dialogue format. Studios, museums, sculpture parks, private collections and production sites offer specific insight to the world of contemporary sculpture and an opportunity to establish professional and social contacts.

Artists, curators, art critics, gallery owners, collectors and art lovers create valuable synergies – and the public is granted easier access to the world of three-dimensional art. The series therefore develops awareness of the relevance and uniqueness of three-dimensional art.

Examples of past Dialogues

**Zwolle**, Netherlands
Curator tour: “In Search of Meaning – The Human Figure in Global Perspective”

**Madrid**, Spain
Arco 2015 – Corporate Collecting: why do companies collect art?

**London**, Great Britain
Meet the artist – Daryl Brown

**Ghent**, Belgium
“UPDATE_5. Technology as context”
Tour with Alain Liedt, initiator of the project

**Carrara**, Italy
The capital of marble, exclusive visit to the Nicoli studio

**Munich**, Germany
Curator tour: Art Collection of the European Patent Office

**Berne**, Switzerland
JETZT KUNST Nº4 – encounters
Knowing:

Art appreciation is nurtured
Knowing:

Art appreciation is nurtured.
“Knowing who makes what and where is one of the oldest forms of impetus for independent creativity. Sculpture Network’s newsletter and website have performed a great service in this respect.”

Prof. Robert Kudielka (Art Historian)
The best form of promoting the arts involves giving a small nudge, which will subsequently set something much bigger in motion. The right information at the right moment is the key to success. sculpture network aims to intensify direct contacts and to boost interaction between artist, clients and institutions. The right information at the right moment is the key to success. To this end, sculpture network has developed a unique, Internet information portal on contemporary sculpture.
Information
sculpture network on the Internet

700 artists
A specialised sculptor/artist database with over 700 artists from all over Europe. A representative cross section of contemporary sculpture. Filter by name, country or materials used.

40 countries
sculpture network brings people together united by a common interest. Geographical distance is not an issue thanks to today’s technology. Our platform is used by people in over 40 countries.

source

sculpture network’s internet portal is its hub. Three languages, artists, collectors, curators, gallery owners, museums and educators can find news and key information – selected and filtered for easy reference.

1,800 events
What’s on in Europe? Our online agenda provides information from across Europe; exhibitions, fairs, conferences and other events with a focus on contemporary sculpture. 150 new entries every month.

100 sculpture sites in Europe
Over 100 sculpture network members are specialised museums, sculpture parks, galleries, workshops and other venues related to contemporary sculpture. This section also lists a further 200 sculpture venues in Europe.

50 opportunities
Artists and curators can source over 50 calls at any one time, including awards, bursaries, competitions, and public commissions, within the scope of three-dimensional art.

200 service and material suppliers
Over 200 specialised companies throughout Europe present their products and services to artists and art organizations.

120 book recommendations
A continuously updated sculpture reading list of current new publications on three-dimensional art.

16,000 subscribers
sculpture network’s monthly Newsletter, published in German and English, includes summaries on selected key contemporary sculpture exhibitions going on around Europe, as well sculpture network’s own news and event information.
Teaching Sculpture

Art, particularly sculpture has a material side to it. Creating a work of art requires dexterity, technique, concept and having something to “say”. Art instruction is key to acquiring skills, whether this takes place at art schools or in an artist’s studio is by the by. sculpture network aims to provide people teaching a platform where they can share experience and know-how. It is an opportunity to meet and communicate with peers in the same field and to learn about different approaches to teaching throughout Europe. This practice directly influences the face of contemporary sculpture today.

Projects have included educators throughout Europe working on a common theme with their students. Then coming together to discuss teaching methods, input, problems and ideas with their colleagues, either via video-conference, articles or in person.

“Teaching and working on a set theme was a challenge. The possibility of comparing your own approach and results with those of other groups’, seeing sometimes major differences as well as many commonalities, was a great gain and a personal confirmation of my work.”

Silvia Withöft-Foremny, participating teacher in the Teachers in Practice programme 2014
Experience:

Art becomes tangible.
Experience:

Art becomes tangible.
“An informative and committed forum for sculpture in the 21st century. Essential for interaction between artist, artwork and institution, with regard to contemporary sculpture.”
Immerse yourself

Learn, experience, travel, marvel, feel. Sculpture network encourages people to get out and meet, whether it be at home or aboard. Travel with us to destinations such as Andalusia, Tuscany, Sweden or meet friends, peers and new contacts at any of the 40 venues during our yearly International Sculpture day, at the end of January. Meeting the creators of art and finding out what prompts them, makes art all the more tangible.
Connected throughout Europe
International celebration of contemporary sculpture

Each year at the end of January sculpture is celebrated throughout Europe. At the same time on the same day, thousands of people get together in galleries, museums, studios and workshops to acclaim sculpture, meet friends and make new contacts. This sculpture festival and new year’s brunch is a unique event, which draws attention to three-dimensional art across Europe; an international festival of contemporary sculpture, which unites thousands of people at different venues. (In 2014, 45 events took place in 17 countries.)

throughout Europe

Each year, a theme focuses the event’s content, hosting venues present a personalised program including exhibitions, talks, panel discussions, workshops, auctions and installations. The extended promotional campaign ensures individual hosting venues the opportunity to promote themselves and sculpture from the local to the international.

NEW YEAR’S BRUNCH
Venues: Across Europe, in museums, studios, galleries
Time: At the end of January each year
Visiting
What is the quickest way to get people to talk about their experiences and visions? Have them travel together. sculpture network’s Experience programme provides exclusive 3 to 4-day art trips every year. Groups of around 30 people travel together to explore unique contemporary sculpture venues, including those off the beaten track. Art lovers from different countries with different profiles but with a common interest in contemporary sculpture, ensure a great atmosphere on these trips.

Travel destinations are carefully selected to offer a unique experience of three dimensional art, local culture and cuisine, ensuring that all the senses are feasted. Visits typically include museums, artists’ studios, private collections and sculpture parks, where local experts, artists or a collector will meet and accompany us during the visits. Travellers will experience an artist’s enthusiasm for their work and materials, gaining a unique insight into the creative process, or a collector’s passion for an artwork and an understanding of what leads to a collection.

“It is fascinating to see the curious ways in which a sculpture is created and what drives an artist to create it,” says Helmut Pütz, sculpture network Board Member who has a number of “Experience trips” behind him.

**Previous “Experience” art tours**

- **August 2015:** Biennale Venice; Italy
- **October 2014:** Andalusia; Spain
- **September 2014:** Sweden and Norway
- **September 2013:** Tuscany, Italy
- **September 2012:** Hamburg and Bremen; Northern Germany
- **July 2012:** Documenta Kassel; Germany
- **November 2011:** Basque Country and Rioja; Spain
- **June 2011:** Mallorca; Spain
- **September 2010:** Turin, Piedmont; Italy
- **October 2009:** Graubünden; Switzerland
- **September 2008:** London; England
- **May 2007:** Barcelona; Spain
Regardless of which country they come from and what their profession is – members of sculpture network are united by a mutual love and interest for three-dimensional art. Communicating this enthusiasm is our common ground and propagating it is sculpture network’s commitment.

Membership
Become part of the

Do you love contemporary sculpture?
Become a member!

Someone got here quicker than you and has removed the flyer!
sculpture network Membership brings the following benefits:

- Expansion of personal and professional networks through new contacts
- Access to expertise, know-how and experience acquisition
- Discussion and debate on the subject of contemporary sculpture
- Visit our website for full details of members’ types and benefits

Who can become a member of sculpture network?

- Professional artists working primarily with a three dimensional language
- Art professionals (curators, culture managers, architects, employees of museums, galleries etc.)
- People with a passion and interest for three dimensional art who want to learn more and support it
- Institutions/organisations (museums, galleries, sculpture parks, artists’ organisations, cultural facilities etc.)
- Service providers (foundries, material suppliers, photographers, lawyers, printers etc.)

Any questions?

Contact our member support.
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