



IKT Congress 2012, TEL AVIV

27 APRIL – 1 MAY 2012

Minute of the General Assembly, 10.15-12.00 am

Present board members: Ferran Barenblit, Stephen Foster, Kati Kivinen, Friedemann Malsch

Excused board members: Miguel Amado, Zoë Gray, Chantal Pontbriand

The president opened the GA with welcoming words and excused the three missing board members.

1. Report of the board's activities 2011-2012

The president continued with a report of the board's activities: On the basis of three main topics, a new board was elected in 2011 during the Luxembourg congress. These topics were (1) the promotion of the membership card in order to convince more institutions to give IKT members free entrance, (2) a new structure for the website with the aim of installing new tools for exchange, and the board set as an aim (3) to look for new possibilities of exchange between IKT members and IKT board members.

A first board meeting took place right after the elections in order to define the functions within the board: Zoë Gray was elected vice-president, Kati Kivinen secretary, Stephen Foster treasurer. Additional board meetings were held in Venice during the professional preview days of the Venice Biennial 2011, in London during Frieze, and in Madrid during ARCO 2012. In order to prepare the General Assembly, a fourth board meeting took place in Tel Aviv. In London, the series of informal gatherings was introduced. While at this occasion, only few members joined the board for a short get together, 15 members and applicants attended the gathering in Madrid. This series will be continued in order to provide more possibilities of discussion: The next board meeting will take place on June 7, 2012 in Kassel at the occasion of documenta 13. The exact date, hour and meeting location for the informal gathering will be announced in the next newsletter.

In the second half of 2011, the website received new visual features and was newly structured to enable the members to benefit from a more active exchange between them. The database is still being renewed, which is why the board asks the members for their help via the website registration (cf. 5. New website).

Since IKT is an association that defends curators' rights, the board has written an official letter to Halbe Zijlstra, State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science in the Netherlands. This letter was motivated by the substantial budget cuts decided by the government, which implied the closure of museums and other art institutions. Instead of being technical, the argumentation in his response was rather ideological. This is a new phenomenon and both the IKT board and the members should be aware of and attentive towards such a dangerous language evolving within administrations.

The board has sent three newsletters during the first year of activity and the feedback showed that newsletters are received, but not always read to the end. Specifically regarding the website registration, all members are asked to read

the newsletters in order to update their contact details and to be continuously reachable.

Regarding the promotion of the membership card, a letter was sent to Swiss and German institutions and the reactions are still in process. Institutions welcoming IKT by granting the members free entrance will be updated step by step on the website, the board will send further letters to increase the number of these institutions.

Furthermore, the professional preview of documenta 13 is free to IKT members after an online accreditation. During the public visiting days, the entrance will not be free.

Friedemann Malsch has visited 2012's CIMAM-congress in Ljubljana, Zagreb and Sarajevo, and used this opportunity for professional exchange with colleagues from this association. The boards of both CIMAM, whose members are exclusively institutional curators, and IKT will exchange ideas also in future.

No comments were expressed by the present IKT members.

2. Budget 2011

Stephen Foster, treasurer of IKT, presented the revised budget for 2011: It could be concluded from the balance sheet that IKT has a small surplus, but that the building of even more reserves would be desirable to increase the number of Harald Szeemann Grants (HSG) for those members who cannot afford attending the annual congress without financial help.

In order to facilitate the payment of the membership fee, the board suggested a three-years-payment, allowing for a discount: For the upcoming years, it will be possible to pay 135 € instead of 150 € for a period of three years. For the back-payments however, the full amount of 50 € per year will be requested.

Over summer, Johanna Schindler will send invoices to those members who have not paid their membership for 2012 yet.

The General Assembly approved the budget.

3. New members

41 new IKT members, whose applications were approved by the board during the course of the year, were confirmed and welcomed by the General Assembly: ANDERSON Shannon, ANDREWS Max, BAZZANI Giacomo, BEN ZVI Tal, BLOMBERG Katja, BUCHER Katrin, BURNS Aileen, CÂNEPA LUNA Mariana, DE LA TORRE Blanca, DESCLAUX Vanessa, DROSCHL Sandro, FIEDLER Elisabeth, HANS Annette, HARMAN Ben, HEGE HALSTENSEN Ruth, HUFFMAN Kathy Rae, HUTTENLAUCH Eva, KATHREIN Miriam, KARROUM Abdellah, LIMON Ghila, LOTZ Antonia, LUCCHESI Silvia, LUNN Felicity, MAOR Hadas, MEYER Kathrin, MOSHENSON Edna, NELSON Nirith, OKAMURA-KAWASAKI Keiko, PTAK Ulrich, RIVA Caterina, ROGGER André, ROGOS Agata, SEGAL Noam, SEGEV Hagai, SHELEFF Mayaan, SPINELLI Aria, THIEL Thomas, TOFT Stinna, TURKOVIC Dana, VILLA Manuela, WAELPUT Wim.

Julien Robson asked for the average number of IKT members: There are more than 800 members, but a major part once became part of the community and did

not cancel the membership if necessary. In terms of the membership payment, IKT counts around 250 active members.

4. Future IKT congresses

Regarding the future congresses, the president referred to the General Assembly in Athens in 2010, during which the members voted for Sao Paulo as a host city for the annual congress in 2013. At the beginning of 2012, the main sponsor, the Sao Paulo Biennial Foundation, withdrew from its support. At the occasion of the board meeting in Madrid in February, the board met Cristiana Tejo, who had proposed Sao Paulo as a congress site. Since it was not considered possible to guarantee a congress in Sao Paulo in 2013 and in the board's responsibility and aim to secure the IKT congress as the main event in the association's annual activities, the board decided to postpone Sao Paulo to another year in the future.

Proposal of Madrid as a future congress site:

At the very same congress in Athens in 2010, the General Assembly's second choice for the 2013 congress was Madrid, proposed by Ferran Barenblit. The board referred to this decision and asked Ferran Barenblit to do research on whether Madrid could still be a host city for 2013. He and Manuela Villa, new IKT member, were asked to present their proposal in front of the General Assembly 2012:

Especially a moment of crisis, which Madrid is encountering at the moment, can be considered as an important moment to travel to a city – as was the case in Athens. Madrid has developed a more intense art scene over the past two years, and furthermore, it constitutes a point of contact with Latin America. The proposed organizing committee will represent the three Spanish administrative levels: Manuel Borja-Villel (Reina Sofia) represents the national level, Ferran Barenblit (CA2M) the regional, and Manuela Villa (Matadero) the municipal level. All three administrative levels as well as the Foreign Ministry have already agreed to support an IKT congress in 2013. Madrid is a well-connected city, and both hotels and flight tickets will be available at a reasonable price.

In terms of the art scene, Madrid has gained international significance and elaborated a vivid alternative scene via newly founded art spaces and museums with new directors. What Barcelona was in 1998 (when the IKT congress was held in that city), Madrid can be considered to be today. Also, the gallery scene is in a good situation with several new directors. The current social, political, and financial crises promise change and evolution, so that Madrid is a place allowing the experience of these challenges.

Friedemann Malsch thanked Ferran Barenblit and Manuela Villa for the proposal and asked the GA for their comments.

Magda Gonzales-Mora asked if a post-congress could take place in Barcelona. Ferran Barenblit replied that if it were in another city, the post-congress could rather take place in Seville or other surrounding cities. However, he proposed a post-congress tour for Madrid's suburbs, since it is a big city, which cannot fully be discovered within two and a half days.

Miriam Westen asked for the dates: Ferran Barenblit proposed the weekend of April 19-21, 2013.

Friedemann Malsch confirmed that the board will stay in touch with Brazilian partners in order to organize a congress in Sao Paulo / Rio de Janeiro in the upcoming years. He put Madrid as a congress site for the 2013 IKT congress to vote.

The GA voted unanimously for Madrid as the congress site for 2013.

Friedemann Malsch suggested to vote for the congress sites for 2014 and 2015 in 2013, in order to make long-term decisions as was the case for past congresses: Since there were no elaborate proposals but only “expressions of interest” by Belgrade, Glasgow and Belfast / Derry-Londonderry for the upcoming years, all members were encouraged to find interested members / sites that could be proposed in 2013. In the meantime, the board has put online guidelines in order to provide an orientation for developing a proposal for a congress site.

5. New website

Kati Kivinen presented the new website, where these guidelines for a proposal of a congress site can be found (<http://www.iktsite.org/ikt-congress-current/criteria-for-choosing-a-host-venuecity/>). They give information about the space and approximate amount of money needed for the organization of the congress. Afterwards, Kati Kivinen presented the members area, where members can post symposia, publications, exhibitions etc. in order to find partner organizations for touring exhibitions or to exchange ideas.

Johanna Schindler showed how to register on the new website and to choose an own password in order to login to the members area.

6. Any other business

Sarah Zürcher expressed her interest in developing IKT into a union that strengthens curators' positions. She was also interested in getting to know how other countries treated this subject and what solutions could be found for specific contracts, payments etc.

Danièle Perrier mentioned that in Switzerland, the conditions for curators' work are clearly pronounced and available for everyone interested.

Enrico Lunghi agreed on the fact that it would be interesting to know other countries' solutions to crises, specific contexts and the respective challenges. He proposed this subject as a topic for one of the future symposia.

Emmanuel Lambion considered the development of a chart as utopian, since IKT is constituted by both freelance and institutional curators. He was in favour of developing guidelines for the professional position of curators.

Maja Ciric stressed that curators produce knowledge and that, for a start, the texts of the IKT symposia should be uploaded on the website.

Sabine Maria Schmidt confirmed her interest in moderating a forum which will soon be installed on the website in order to discuss about the mentioned topics, get informed and exchange thoughts. Mirjam Westen agreed to exchange information about curatorship and Anna Johansson proposed putting online a survey she conducted about the working situation of curators in Sweden.

Keren Detton mentioned her engagement in developing CEA (Commissaires d'expositions associés), an association being created in reaction to a survey

conducted in France. The French government needed a counter-part to discuss with and although the association has not yet brought forward sufficient financial means, it will be further developed.

Friedemann Malsch stated that there are several attempts to create national associations of curators and that this topic should be discussed in the online-forum on the website. It is still in a phase of testing, but will be put online soon and Sabine Maria Schmidt will take care of its moderation.

Closing words by the president:

The presence of the members during the annual congress is a sign of compassion and of being an active member, which will hopefully be maintained in future.

After expressing the board's thanks to Danna Heller, her team, and all hosts and sponsors for organizing a fantastic congress, the president closed both the GA and the IKT congress 2012.