



Dear Member,



IKT-sticker at the entrance of an IKT friendly institution.

We are very glad to see that our association is still attracting new members and even some old members who have been “absent” for a while. This could be evidence of the fact that there is a real need for a platform for curators of contemporary art, which allows the sharing of common interests and aims. The increasing weight of nationalistic policies, the privatisation of the cultural sphere, and the market-oriented trend of some artistic and curatorial practices raise new challenges for our profession, but also tend to isolate and weaken each individual search for universal values. With this background in mind, it seems to us important to keep the human contact alive, together with the exchange of personal experiences that IKT has always provided, especially through its annual congresses, but also more

recently through its newsletters and the ever-improving website.

During this year, we have managed to increase the visibility of the IKT: more than 100 members already have their membership cards, which is accepted in more than 200 art institutions in Europe (see list on [www.iktsite.org](http://www.iktsite.org)). We would like to remind you that the IKT-card is sent to members who have paid their annual fee and sent an ID-photo – without a photo we cannot finish the card! Those members who already have their IKT-card will receive the 2008 sticker by post as soon as their fee for the coming year reaches us.

Board members have also been meeting the challenge of organising the first IKT Congress outside Europe. Together with Chantal Pontbriand from Parachute, we are setting up a rich and varied visiting programme, allowing participants to discover (or re-discover) the major art institutions and galleries in Montreal and Québec, as well as to meet professionals and artists in this very active region.

We are currently hoping to provide as many travel grants as possible for participants at the Congress. With the help of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada (Programme Promart) and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec (Programme Diapason), we are already able to provide at least **50 grants covering up to 75% of travel costs**. We still hope to be able to increase this number, and wish to have as many interested members as possible at this unique Congress.

We would like to remind you that the current Board mandate expires next year. Elections for a new Board and President will be held at the General Assembly on Monday, May 26th in Montreal. In order to consolidate the structure of our association, we are setting up a simple and clear procedure for voting, as well as a basic list of requirements for all interested candidates.

Meanwhile, we wish you a good end to the current year and a joyful and successful year in 2008!

The Board





## New challenges for curatorial- and museum-practice

The intertwinement of the marketeconomy and the visual arts was always and is still evident. Auctionshouses buy galleries, auctioneers buy directly from artiststudio's. In western economics musea are challenged by the floods of money in the arts that bring new attitudes and pressures. Museums seem to compete more and more with private collectors in acquiring works of art. Collectors withdraw their collections from museums when they don't agree with the policy of the institutions (Collection Bock was withdrawn from the MMK in Frankfurt am Main after the director left).

On the other hand collectors sometimes are the driving force behind the erection of new cultural institutions or manage to collect large donations to institutions to buy new artworks or to erect new museum wings. Museumcurators, directors and artcritics are participating in committees for acquisitions for multi-national corporations. Some museums show the collection of their sponsors (Tate Modern). Sometimes institutional curators, who worked formerly for big galleries, realize acquisitions through 'their' gallery. «The boundaries between the museum and commercial art worlds are really gone», says Lisa Dennison, who recently left the Guggenheim Museum in NY to work for Sotheby's.

The role of museums and biennals is stressed more as being part of marketingpolicies of cities ('ridden with chamber-of-commerce localism', Philip Tinari in Artforum, oct 2007), then of cultural heritage. At the same time Dokumenta director Buergel strived to keep the artmarket as far away as possible. Museums (and mega art-events) are no longer places exclusively reserved for culture, but are also an instrument of power. "We are not fooled by this evolution\* and we must try to act within its contradiction", said Alfred Pacquement (president of CIMAM) at the CIMAM conference on 'Contemporary institutions: between public and private' in 2006. How do cultural institutions and curators position themselves in this fast-changing society? What are the shifts in curatorial praticies that we as IKT-members have to face? Speakers are invited to share their view on new challenges for the art world.

These will be the main points of discussion for the lectures in Montreal. The lectures will be held on Saturday May 24th at 10 am in Montreal. A round-table discussion, allowing to reflect and debate on this topic and will take place on Sunday May 25th at 2.30 pm in Quebec.

The list of speakers will be announced soon.

Mirjam Westen





## IKT Congress 2008 – Montreal

Discovering the Canadian art scene and more...

Our annual IKT Congress will be a very special one in 2008 as it will be the first overseas Congress. From May 22nd to May 26th, the IKT, in collaboration with Parachute, will give you the opportunity to visit the main institutions of Montreal and Quebec and to discover their collections of contemporary art. Visits of museums, art foundations, art centres, artist spaces, production sites and commercial galleries are also planned in the framework of this Congress in order to cover all aspects of the very intense artistic creation in that region of the world. The organized dinners and parties will be the occasion to meet more Canadian curators and artists in order to exchange views and ideas. Of course the Congress will also feature panel discussions and presentations revolving around a very interesting topic that will provide a common theoretical basis for discussions.

Please consider that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Commerce of Canada and the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Quebec will provide travel grants. This will allow IKT members to participate at this overseas Congress at a very reasonable price. Please be reminded that members who wish to apply for grants must do so as soon as possible in order to enhance their chances.

If you wish to profit even more from your stay in Canada, we suggest you join us for the additional programmes on May 27th and 28th. The Post-congress will consist of three possible extra tours :

- two extra days in Montreal to visit studios and research centers ;
- a two-day visit to Toronto to see galleries and institutions and meet artists ;
- a day-trip to Ottawa to see the National Capital's major art institutions.

Hospitality is the key-word to this congress. A warm welcome to all.





## IKT Elections

We would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the IKT elections will take place at the General Assembly in Montreal and we are looking forward to new candidates for the board and presidency.

Required conditions to be candidate for IKT elections:

### Board members

- be IKT-member since at least 2 years and have regularly paid the annual member fee
- commit to work on a voluntary basis for 3 years in the interest of the IKT, this in close collaboration with the other board members
- willing to attend 3 board-meetings per year without any financial compensation

### President

- be IKT-member since at least 2 years and have regularly paid the annual member fee
- commit to work on a voluntary basis for 3 years in the interest of the IKT, this in close collaboration with the other board members
- willing to attend 3 board-meetings per year without any financial compensation
- ensure the financing of the IKT office for 3 years (part-time job for one assistant): the candidate must produce a written statement by an institution or a local authority testifying a financial support covering the salary and the travel costs of the assistant during 3 years of mandate. (15'000 € /year during the present mandate)
- take the responsibility to represent the IKT in all its legal forms



## Colophon

From 2005 to 2008 the IKT association will be based in Luxembourg. The statutes of the Luxembourgish branch of the association were registered on the 25th August 2005.

The IKT association is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research, Luxembourg.

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