



Dear Member,

When Montreal was voted to host our annual Congress by the audience at the General Assembly in Paris in 2006, we were a little afraid that such a far destination could be a handicap for most of our members. But as the date approaches, the registrations are flowing in and we are starting to have difficulties organising the event for such a big number of interested participants!

Of course we are very glad about this large interest of our members, and together with our Canadian colleagues from Parachute and the institutions in Quebec, we are working on a meeting that we hope will be very interesting, combined with our traditional sense of hospitality and friendship. It is also exciting to organise this first Congress overseas, and in many ways it seems to us that it will be setting new and important orientations for our association.

Indeed, we feel that IKT is at another turning point of its almost 40 years (!) of existence. As we all know and experience in our daily practice, the art world is undergoing profound changes and, as curators, we all have to face new challenges. Our association can be a platform to discuss ideas and problems openly, as well as for defending common interests and a show of solidarity between members.

As the reorganisation of our website is almost complete, we would like to start developing an IKT e-archive. Due to the rotation of our board and office, we do not have much material about the origins of our association and its activities over the past decades. So we would like to make a call for sending us all kind of visuals or texts you should have from previous Congresses, especially the very old ones! Some of you may have started a personal archive of IKT and we would be very grateful to have a copy of it (preferably scanned and sent via e-mail or CD-Rom). Please label each document precisely (place and date especially, author if known etc.), so that we can order it correctly and make it easy to consult.

Another important point is to keep working on the visibility of IKT. The IKT card gives our association a certain visibility and the IKT sticker giving IKT members free entrance can already be seen in many institutions. Should you encounter problems in obtaining free entrance to one of the institutions listed as "IKT-friendly" on our website, please let us know so that we can try to arrange this directly. More and more members are now in possession of the IKT card and it is nice to know it is being used.

Improving the recognition of our association is a permanent preoccupation: last year we managed to facilitate the entrance to established events such as the Venice Biennale and Documenta for several of our members by officially approaching the organisers. Our ultimate aim is to have our membership card accepted as a professional pass to all contemporary art shows. But for this to become reality, a lot still needs to happen and each member can help contribute to it.

Please remember that the General Assembly in Montreal will vote for the new mandate of the IKT board and president covering the period from the Montreal Congress to after the 2011 Congress. We have already appealed for new candidates and hope that many will stand and give our members the choice of electing the board they wish. At present, two new candidates have approached us. If you would like to run for board membership, please check the list and requirements on our website: there is still time to send in your application!

We are greatly looking forward to seeing many of you in Montreal.

Best wishes to all of you,

The board: Adam Budak, Zoran Eric, Maria Lind, Enrico Lunghi, Friedemann Malsch, Chus Martinez





New challenges for curatorial- and museum-practice

The topic for the next IKT congress at Montreal (May 2008) is the intertwinement of the market-economy, the visual arts and art-institutions on the one hand and the changed balance between the public and private. 'The increasing intermeshing of public and private interests in and on museums' (as was the subtitle of the CIMAM conference in 2006) is influencing our daily practice as curators, directors and writers. The central questions we will address are: How do cultural institutions and curators position themselves against the background of the recent developments? How do these developments affect exhibition programs, do they lead to a different understanding and approach of visitors/ peergroups, and will they change our ideas about the profile and positioning of the art museum? Is it time to reconsider the old polarization between the public and private? We would like to discuss the manifold strategies of art institutions to address these developments.

We have invited curators, directors and writers, based in Europe, United States and Canada to give their informed opinions on these matters and to share their view on new challenges and opportunities. (The fourth speaker is to be announced).

'The Work of Art in the Age of Commercial Reproduction'

by Chrissie Iles (Anne and Joel Ehrenkrantz Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art)

What is the role of the museum and the curator in an age where art has become co-opted by commodification? How does the art world's shift from a community to an industry affect the making, presentation and scholarship of art, exhibitions and collections? Is the extreme commodification of art killing the goose that lays the golden eggs?

'The „corporate turn“ in the institutional landscape'

by Nina Möntmann (Professor and Head of Department of Art Theory and the History of Ideas at the Royal University College of Fine Arts in Stockholm).

Since institutions in their very nature relate to the general value system of a society one could say that the „corporate turn“ in the institutional landscape mirrors the general power relations of a late capitalist, neo-liberal constitution. Today the project of art institutions is coined or at least influenced by the dependency on external, and increasingly private funding, which implies the mission to attract the masses and deliver visitors numbers to the funding bodies. Opposing to this concept of an anonymous mass of consumers there is a desire shared by many curators to produce new publics and relate with their program to these newly formed communities. I will discuss models of public oriented art institutions and initiatives in diverse geographical regions and consider the «relational institution» against the backdrop of participatory democracies.

'What's Wrong with the Art Market in Vancouver'

by Scott Watson (Director/Curator of the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver)

How does the market affect the art situation in different ways in Vancouver? Some of them seemingly positive, others negative, but in either event, a market-oriented scene generates mythologies, representations and even ideologies that require examination and critique.



IKT Congress 2008 – Montreal

We are very glad to confirm the program of the Congress in Montreal (complete update on www.iktsite.org) with a visit to the most important institutions and galleries. There will be also opportunities to meet the local art scene and enjoy some great hospitality.

Here some short insight in the main institutions we will be visiting:

The **Centre canadien d'architecture / Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)** is an international research centre and museum. It is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on the art of architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society today.

Exhibitions on display:

Utopia's Ghost and An Endangered Species

www.cca.qc.ca

The **Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal / Montreal Museum of Fine Arts**, acquires and promotes the work of Canadian and international artists, past and present. Founded in 1860, it has built up a collection of over 33,000 objects - painting, sculpture, works on paper, prints and drawings, photographs and decorative art objects - from Antiquity to today. Exhibition on display :

¡Cuba! Art and History from 1868 to Today

www.mbam.qc.ca

The **Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal / Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art (MACM)** is hosting a new important event: the Triennale québécoise will present forty artists from the Province of Quebec. Curators Josée Bélisle, Mark Lanctôt, Pierre Landry and Chief Curator Paulette Gagnon have conducted research since two years to prepare this unprecedented event.

<http://www.macm.org/fr/expositions/49.html>

DHC/ART Foundation for Contemporary Art is a new exhibition space housed in a renovated historic building in old Montreal inaugurated in 2007 which actively supports the production of contemporary art. Exhibitions on display:

Re.enactments (Nancy Davenport, Stan Douglas, Harun Farocki, Ann Lislegaard, Paul Pfeiffer, Kerry Tribe), curated by John Zeppetelli

www.dhc-art.org/

The **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec / the National Museum of Quebec**, situated in the Province's Capital) has a main objective which is to showcase the creativity of Québec artists from the 17th century to the present. It also regularly hosts major exhibitions featuring international art.

Exhibition on display amidst the historical collection on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Quebec City: Intrus/Intruders (contemporary works by about 25 Québec artists intermixed with historical masterpieces).

www.mnba.qc.ca

This year's biennial organized by the **Manif d'art** in Quebec City is called The Meeting: Toi/You and is curated by Lisanne Nadeau. New modes of alterity will be looked at in the age of communications which is ours. Over forty-five artists mostly from from Quebec and Canada, but also others from France, Spain, Lituania, Bulgaria, Columbia, Mexico, and the United States will exhibit in two buildings in Quartier Saint-Roch.

www.manifdart.org

We are looking forward to seeing you there !

The IKT-board and Chantal Pontbriand (Parachute)





IKT Elections

A new board will be elected at the General Assembly for a 3-year mandate (2009-2011). The IKT-board is composed of 7 members: 1 president, 1 vice-president, 1 treasurer, 1 secretary and 3 active members.

Candidates for presidency:

- Enrico Lunghi (current president), artistic director of Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain

Candidates for the board:

Adam Budak - Curator, Kunsthaus Graz, Austria

Zoran Eric (current secretary) - Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade, Serbia

Stephen Foster - Director, John Hansard Gallery, UK

Maria Lind (current vice-president) - Director, Centre for Curatorial Studies, Bard College – USA

Friedemann Malsch - Director, Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein

Chus Martinez - Director, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Germany

Elly Stegeman - Curator, SM's - Stedelijk Museum 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands

Mirjam Westen (current treasurer) - Curator, Museum Voor Moderne Kunst Arnhem, The Netherlands

Please note that members wishing to candidate for presidency and to become board members can still do so until the General Assembly in Montreal.

For the requirements for candidacy please refer to our website www.iktsite.org.



Partners & Sponsors of the IKT Congress 2008



art contemporain_contemporary art



Affaires étrangères et
Commerce international Canada


Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada



Conseil des Arts
du Canada

Canada Council
for the Arts

Culture,
Communications et
Condition féminine

Québec 

Affaires municipales
et Régions

Québec 

Conseil des arts
et des lettres

Québec 

CONSEIL DES ARTS
DE MONTRÉAL



TOURISME
Montréal

Montréal 

