



Dear Member,

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR
PHOTOS AND DOCUMENTS
FROM THE EARLY IKT YEARS
TO CREATE AN IKT ARCHIVE.
ALL HELP IS WELCOME !**

In these times of dramatic news – a worldwide financial crisis (even if the results of the elections in the USA seem promising) – it might be good to know that there are links of solidarity and friendship on which you can rely. Our association is keeping this spirit alive in the art world, and the positive comments we often get on our modest but reliable activities are very encouraging.

Since the last Congress in Montreal, where we launched the idea of collecting historical information about the IKT to form an e-archive (to be put on our website), we have received material from several members. The almost mythical beginnings about the founding of the association, nearly 40 years ago, are starting to be recognised. This is an

important issue given that some of the founding and early members are not active anymore or have passed away, and that the younger generation does not always know about the origins of the IKT. Recently, it has been interesting and amusing to listen to the very different versions of the founding date, probably mixed with personal memories and imagination: according to some, IKT was founded in 1967 or 1968, just before *When attitudes become forms*. According to others shortly after, in 1969-1970, and still others put the founding date around 1972, in the context of the legendary *Documenta V* curated by Harald Szeeman.

We now know that the last group was right: the original documents show that the first IKT meeting (*Internationale KunstausstellungsleiterTagung*) took place at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Berlin from 6 to 8 May 1973. Uwe Schneede of the Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart proposed the formation of an association for international curators, aiming to represent the professional interests of its members. After some preliminary discussions, the IKT was officially founded in November 1973 in Berlin. The first board was elected at the same time, with Eberhard Roters (Berlin) as President and Harald Szeeman (Berne) as Vice President. Interestingly, Jean Leering (then Director of Tropenmuseum Amsterdam and later of the Vanabbe Museum in Eindhoven) was a member of that board. This shows the international character of the association from the very beginning.¹

All this is only the starting point of the collection of information and formalisation of the history of the IKT. It seems very important to us to transmit this knowledge to the younger generation, and it will be good to start thinking about the celebration of the IKT's 40th birthday soon!

Meanwhile, we are actively preparing the next Congress in Helsinki and Tallinn, and we are very grateful for the support we have from our institutional and freelance colleagues. The programme of visits is looking rich and dense and we are sure that it will once again be a wonderful opportunity to meet our members and discover an amazing art scene. You will find more information about the Congress on page 3, so save the dates and book your hotel as soon as possible!

The question about how to start a discussion forum for IKT-members has also been raised in Montreal. A working group formed by Michelle Kasprzak, Stephen Foster and Zoran Eric reflected on this subject during the last months. On page 2 you will find their report. We hope it will raise a lot of comments and reactions.

We wish you all possible pleasure and success in your projects!

The Board:

Adam Budak, Maria Lind, Enrico Lunghi, Friedemann Malsch, Chus Martinez, Chantal Pontbriand, Mirjam Westen

¹ Source: official documents (minutes of meetings) provided by Leonie Baumann / NGBK Berlin.





Report: Proposed Online Discussion Forum for IKT-Members

Background:

Michelle Kasprzak, Stephen Foster and Zoran Eric engaged in a conversation regarding ways to encourage further discussion and communication among IKT members, using the IKT website itself and possibly other online platforms.

Benefits and Challenges:

The participants in this discussion believe that the IKT membership would benefit greatly from having the ability to:

- continue discussions that occur at the annual Congress
- generate discussion between annual Congresses
- share information on exhibitions and events (an ongoing IKT Market of sorts)
- develop creative alliances that could lead to future collaborations.

Online requirements:

- effective moderation to keep discussions on topic and relevant to IKT business
- ongoing upgrades to relevant software
- decisions made regarding the privacy of members and the information that is shared.

Technical considerations:

The IKT site itself is built with WordPress blog software. The WordPress team has also created a discussion board software called bbPress: <http://bbpress.org/>. Given that WordPress now runs on the server where the IKT site is hosted, it should be also capable of running bbPress. Products by the WordPress team are free and tend to be well-developed.

Many IKT members are also signed up to social networking sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Both Facebook and LinkedIn have the facility to create groups with discussion boards, and also methods to keep membership restricted and content private. However, we need to remain mindful of who might be excluded by creating groups on these services, since not everyone agrees with Facebook and/or LinkedIn's terms of service.

We could also adopt a combined approach, where a discussion forum is hosted on the IKT website and members also have the option of showing their affiliation to IKT by joining LinkedIn and/or Facebook groups.

Recurring themes:

It is of course a major challenge to design a system that will support such an open-ended aim (greater communication) for a group with a diverse and global membership such as IKT. It has been very interesting carrying out this discussion over e-mail and attempting to identify ways to enhance communication among the IKT members.

We found that themes that came up several times in conversation and that will be key to decision-making are: privacy of members, effective stimulation/moderation of discussion, and relevant streams of conversation to be set up in the first instance.

Our discussion has concluded that the success of an online IKT discussion platform depends on active involvement and clear guidelines on use of the platform.

Next steps:

The feasibility of launching this online platform and realization of it should be discussed. A timeline should then be decided wherein member feedback on the proposal is accepted and incorporated into an IKT Board decision. A steering group to assist in the delivery of this project should be appointed in order to run the platform properly.

Working group:

Michelle Kasprzak, Stephen Foster and Zoran Eric





SAVE THE DATES!
IKT CONGRESS 2009 HELSINKI / TALLINN
23 April – 26 April 2009

Together with our Finnish colleagues Ritva Röminger-Czako and Kati Kivinen and our Estonian colleague Sirje Helme, we are actively preparing the next IKT-Congress in Helsinki and Tallinn.

The preliminary programme of visits is already looking exciting:

On Thursday 23 April, we will be welcomed at Kiasma and be able to (re-)discover this fantastic museum with outstanding programme. Furthermore, all the private contemporary art galleries in the neighbourhood will stay open for IKT-members until 10pm (at least) in order to present their shows and artists in a convivial atmosphere.

After the official opening of the Congress on Friday morning 24 April, the traditional members forum will take place. Then, a bus will take us to Espoo to visit EMMA (Museum of modern art) and have lunch there. The afternoon and evening programme will include visits of the Helsinki City Art Museum in Meilahti, Forum Box and the Cable Factory with the Finnish Museum of Photography, the Finnish Fund for Art Exchange FRAME, the Helsinki International Artist-in-residence Programme HIAP and AV-arkki, the Distribution Centre for Finnish Media Art.

On Saturday we will take the ferry to Tallinn (please consider a fare-ticket of approx. 65€ per member!) and visit KUMU where our conference will also take place. After a bus visit of the city centre we will take the ferry back to Helsinki for a dinner and party with our Finnish colleagues and artists.

The General Assembly will be held on Sunday 26 April in the Ateneum (National Museum for Finnish Art) which will also be visited. This will be the occasion to discuss various points and take common decisions regarding the future of our association: every member is encouraged to be present.

For all those who are able to stay longer, the post-congress programme will give the opportunity to discover more about the local art scene by visiting other institutions on Sunday afternoon. Studio visits will be organized on Monday and Tuesday.

For sure this Congress will be a great occasion to (re-)discover the art scenes of Helsinki and Tallinn and enjoy the fantastic hospitality of our colleagues from North-East Europe !

The general topic of the conference is in preparation: more information will be available soon.

Please note that as the attendance to our Congresses is increasing yearly, we are obliged to close the registration when we reach the number of 150 participants.

The IKT board





IKT e-archive

We are currently working on developing an IKT e-archive with documents related to the history of the IKT, be it the very early years (70's and 80's) or the more recent (90's).

Should you have any material in relation to this (congress archives, programmes of past congresses, photos, minutes, previous board members, etc), please contact us at mail@iktsite.org to inform us about this. We will then see together how we can share this information with all our members.

On our website, we have already started an 'archive'-section. Please have a look and maybe you can help us to build this archive.

<http://www.iktsite.org/ikt-archive>



Membership Fee 2008

Please do not forget to pay your 2008 membership fee if you have not done it yet!

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IBAN (International bank account number) LU89 1111 2412 8041 0000
BIC / SWIFT: CCPLLULL
Bank: Entrepise des P&T Luxembourg / Chèques postaux
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Colophon

From 2008 to 2011 the IKT association will be based in Luxembourg. The statutes of the Luxembourgish branch of the association were registered on 25 August 2005.

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

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