



Dear Member,



We are now at the end of a strange year, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (and, therefore, the end of the 'communist block'), but which also saw the global financial situation at its worst since 1929. It is still very difficult for us to comprehend the new kind of capitalism emerging from this, but one thing seems certain: every day its complexity and interaction with all parts of the world increase, making it more and more difficult to look beyond, or not to contribute to it, even involuntarily.

As curators, we see it as our task to raise questions about our role in this (art)world and our contribution to it. In this context, it might be a good thing for many of us to know that we can share our opinions and doubts with colleagues through platforms such as IKT.

Meanwhile, our association is constantly growing: in 2005/06 we had 314 paying members (the overlapping of these two years made it impossible to distinguish in which year membership was paid, so it can be estimated that for 2006 the number was between 260 and 280); in 2007 the number totalled 313 members; and in 2008, 369 members paid their annual fee. So far in 2009, we have already reached 300, but payments are still coming in daily, so we hope to reach the same number as last year. It is clear that the earlier the annual membership fees are paid, the easier it is for us to organise the yearly Congress, which is what the association's money is mostly used for: organisation of the lectures and speakers' fees, and local organisational costs (we also need, of course, local support in each venue). Early payments allow us to determine how many Harald Szeemann Grants we can afford, to help members in a difficult financial situation to take part in the Congress (in 2009, of the 127 Congress participants in Helsinki, 9 received grants).

Most members pay their fee by bank transfer. However, this payment method involves some very expensive transfer fees for non-European members. In order to facilitate the payment procedure, we recently opened a PayPal account for the IKT, allowing members to pay the membership fee online by credit card. This procedure is very simple, and even members who do not have a private PayPal account can use it. If you request a payment order via email, we can send you a link to the payment page for our account. This will hopefully save a lot of time and trouble when making future payments.

One thing we must continue to improve is the acceptance of our membership card: over 200 members already have an IKT membership card, and ideally everyone should try to have it accepted in his/her own institution, and promote it in his/her city or country. We have a list of institutions that formally replied to our letter of 2007, asking if they would accept free entrance for our members (see <http://www.iktsite.org/ikt-friendly>), but we have no way of controlling its effectiveness. It would be good if all IKT members could do some "lobbying" in this direction.

Together with our colleagues in Athens, we are now, actively preparing the next Congress. You can find some information about it in the following pages. More will follow soon. It will certainly be a very interesting Congress, in this sun-flooded city also known as the cradle of Western philosophy. We are looking forward to meeting many of you there!

Meanwhile we wish you a good end to 2009 and a great start to 2010!

The Board





IKT Congress 2010 - Athens

The IKT Congress 2010 will be held in Athens from **Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 May 2010**.

During our visit, we will have the opportunity to experience the vibrant contemporary art scene that has appeared in this city in the last years. A full programme of visits will include major institutions, including the National Gallery, the National Museum of Contemporary Art, the Cycladic Museum, the Benaki Museum, the DESTE Foundation and ART-ATHINA, the International Contemporary Art Fair of Athens, as well as a selection of independent projects. Moreover, there will be time to visit some of the private galleries that have been instrumental in raising awareness for contemporary art in Athens. We will also try to put you in touch with most of the active agents in the Athenian contemporary art landscape and to forge relationships for the future. Lastly, in the two-day post-Congress programme, members will have the opportunity to visit more classical sites, like the Acropolis and the new Acropolis Museum.

National Gallery: <http://www.nationalgallery.gr>

National Museum of Contemporary Art: <http://www.emst.gr>

Cycladic Museum: <http://www.cycladic-m.gr>

Benaki Museum: <http://www.benaki.gr>

Deste Foundation: <http://www.deste.gr>

ART-ATHINA: <http://www.art-athina.gr>



COURAGE !!!

What is courage today? What is it to be courageous? What can qualify as a courageous act?

In the troubled and changing times we are witnessing, most values and value systems are in flux. This occurrence has the effect of destabilizing society as well as the individual. Courage is a value that situates itself in the midst of flux and change. It is required in order to face unusual or unprecedented situations, even more so as the world is undergoing massive changes provoked by economics, technology, and political as well as spiritual upheaval, or, at the other extreme, nihilism or comfort in the status quo. Just as though, in the fear of this changing world, societies as well as individuals prefer comfort to confrontation, immobilism to resistance or proactiveness. The pregnancy of right wing governments or parties on most continents reflects this situation. The complacency of bureaucracy in postmodern times, the low level of creativity, the rigidity inherent in governmental and institutional apparatus, the fear of true change (masked by constant reorganizations which simply produce more of the same), all these factors can only be dealt with by courageous acts of being.

Acts of being rather than heroic acts... strength to be found in the every day and not necessarily in grand gestures.

From the beginnings of philosophy in ancient Athens, Courage is a major concept linked to one's existence as a society and as an individual. Courage had to do with warfare and heroism. What has it become today? What do the youth riots of the last years tell us ?

The conference will be the occasion to question the curator's role in contemporary times. In a consumerist, ready-to-go, society such as ours, how can one avoid prefabricated endeavors such as those favored by the mediasphere, the ever-present bureaucracy, the plain daily inertia, or anomie, of the current times? How as a curator can one open one's eyes, thus opening those of others?

The speakers that will join us :

Costas Douzinas, professor of law, political theorist

Sarat Maharaj, curator and art historian

Antonio Negri, philosopher

Jalal Toufic, artist and writer

Presented by Chantal Pontbriand



News

Members announcements

Members now will have the possibility to make announcements via our internet site www.iktsite.org. In the category 'members announcements' we will publish specific messages of professional use from our members community (travelling exhibitions, job proposals, institutional partnership searches, etc).

For this, simply send us your announcement by email to mail@iktsite.org as a 1-page PDF (max. 500kb) and we will publish it as soon as possible on the IKT website.

The IKT board will keep the right not to publish announcements that are judged as incompatible with the association's activity or with no professional aim.

Pay online by credit card via PayPal

The IKT now also accepts online payments by credit card through PayPal (<http://www.paypal.com/>). Should you not have a private PayPal account, please contact us to receive a payment order by email.



IKT Membership fee 2009/10

We would also like to remind those of you who still haven't paid their 2009 membership-fee (50 €) yet, to please do so as soon as possible. Members interested in already paying for 2010 can also already do so.

IKT Luxembourg asbl
 IBAN (International bank account number) LU89 1111 2412 8041 0000
 BIC / SWIFT: CCPLLULL
 Bank: Entrepise des P&T Luxembourg / Chèques postaux
 Adress: L-1090 Luxembourg

PayPal account: mail@iktsite.org

Please indicate clearly your name, institution and year of payment when making the transfer.



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 the 25th August 2005.

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