

Minutes of the 29th ICFA Annual Meeting in Athens (14th to 18th October 2008)

Greece and the world: artistic exchange and influence from 1800 to the present day

Tuesday 14th October 2008

19.00 to 22.00 Welcome Reception

The conference participants were welcomed at the National Gallery of Greece by our hosts Professor Marina Lambraki-Plaka (Director of the National Gallery) and by Suzanne Houlia-Kapeloni (President of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM) for an evening tour of the well-lit galleries followed by a reception. The riches of the collections on display in the new wing included the achievements of Greek painters and sculptors from El Greco to the present day, with a particular emphasis on the artists of the 19th century and the painters of the 20th century. An interesting collection of European art from the 17th and 18th centuries was also exhibited. At the reception in the Gallery's café we were delighted to meet colleagues from ICOM-Greece and in particular long-standing ICFA member, Professor Nicolaos Zias. The convivial atmosphere, especially among Greek colleagues and ICFA newcomers, wetted our appetites for the following four days comprised of the study day and the visits to collections in and around Athens. The meeting and study day were attended by 18 ICFA members from Europe and the USA, as well as Iran, and in addition to up to 20 members of ICOM-Greece.

Wednesday 15th October 2008

08.30 to 17.30 Study day at the National Gallery

09.45 to 10.30 Welcoming addresses

Marina Lambraki-Plaka, Director of the National Gallery
Suzanne Houlia-Kapeloni, President of ICOM-Greece
Stephen Lloyd, ICFA Chair

10.30 to 11.30 Early Morning Session

Chair: Marina Lambraki-Plaka, National Gallery

Olga Mentzafou, Head of Collections and Exhibitions, National Gallery
'The Creation of the permanent collection of the National Gallery'

Magnus Olausson, Director of Royal Castles Collections and Swedish National Portrait Gallery, National Museum, Stockholm
'Swedish Memories of the Parthenon'

Giuliana Ericani, Director, Museo Biblioteca Archivio di Città di Bassano del Grappa
'Antonia Canova and the Parthenon Marbles'

12.00 to 13.30 Late Morning Session

Chair: Sig Miss, Thorvaldsens Museum

Stephen Lloyd, Senior Curator, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh
'G.B. Lusieri: an Italian watercolourist and draughtsman working in Athens 1800-1821'

Marilena Cassimatis, Curator, National Gallery
'The making of an exhibition: "The New Hellas" at the National Museum of Bavaria and "Athens – Munich: Art and Culture in the new Greek state" at the National Gallery of Greece'

Marianne Saabye, Director, Hirschsprung Collection, Copenhagen
'The painters Niels and Joakim Skovgaard in Greece in the 1880s and 1890s'

14.30 to 15.45 Early Afternoon Session

Chair: Stephen Lloyd, Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Maria Katsanaki, Curator, National Gallery
'Greek painters in Paris in the second half of the 19th century: the case of Th. Rallis'

Nelly Missirlis, Art Historian
'Studies and actions of Greek painters of the 19th century and their participation in international exhibitions'

Mary Greensted, MPhil Student, University of Birmingham
'Greek embroideries in the collections of William, Jane and May Morris'

16.00 to 17.30 Late Afternoon session

Chair: Professor Nicolaos Zias

Andreas Ioannidis, Professor, Athens School of Fine Arts
'The 1930s generation: towards a Greek modernism'

Lina Tsikouta, Curator, National Gallery
'Greek artists of the 1960s: generation and their relationship to the avant-garde and the nouveau réalisme'

Marina Lambraki-Plaka, Director, National Gallery
'Art and ideology: the new presentation of the permanent collection'

Lively discussions were held at the end of each session. We are grateful to all the speakers and chairs, as well as to Marina Lambraki-Plaka and her colleagues at the National Gallery, for their time and effort in making this event such a rewarding collegial and intellectual experience. The study day was attended by up the ICFA members and up to twenty members of ICOM-Greece and invited guests. ICOM-Greece - in association with ICFA - is planning to publish all the study day papers.

19.30 to 21.30 Reception and tour of the Numismatic Museum, Athens

Thursday 16th October 2008
Meetings and Visits

09.00 to 10.30 ICFA's board meeting and plenary session at ICOM-Greece's headquarters, Athens

With a quorum of board members present, ICFA Chair, Dr Stephen Lloyd, briefly reported on the success of the 2007 meeting in Vienna, organised so well by Dr Klaus Weschenfelder with Dr Carl Aigner of ICOM-Austria. The Chair also praised ICOM-Greece (especially former ICOM-Greece President, Mrs Teti Hadjinicolaou, and ICFA meeting organiser Elizabeth Barge) and the National Gallery of Greece for organising such a friendly and stimulating meeting in Athens. Jacques Kuhnle, ICFA Treasurer, presented his financial report on the ICFA accounts, which retain a healthy but modest surplus. The level of membership remains steady. Stig Miss, Klaus Weschenfelder and Marianne Saabye confirmed that they had stood down from the board, their periods of office having expired. In summer 2009 Klaus Weschenfelder will take up the position – in succession to Dr York Langenstein – of President of ICOM-Germany. Newly elected members to the ICFA board are Dr Galina B. Andreeva, Head of Public Relations and Projects at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow (and recently appointed Executive Director of ICOM-Russia); Dr Don Bacigalupi, Director of the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio; Dott. Giuliana Ericani, Director, Museo Biblioteca Archivio di Città di Bassano del Grappa; and Professor Magnus Olausson, Director of Royal Castles Collections and Swedish National Portrait Gallery, National Museum, Stockholm.

For the 2009 meeting Giuliana Ericani kindly proposed that she would work with her colleagues at ICOM-Italy to host the ICFA meeting in Rome. For the XXIIe ICOM Congress in Shanghai in November 2010, the ICFA Chair reported on his continuing contacts with Dr Daniela Ball, Chair of DEMHIST to pursue the idea of a joint meeting in Shanghai, possibly together with ICDAD and GLASS. A joint exploratory meeting of representatives of these international committees will be held just before the ICOM meetings in Paris from 9th to 11th June 2009. We also hope to meet in Paris members of the Chinese Museum community, including our organisational liaison Kathy Chen of NAMOC, as well as our specific ICFA liaison, Dr Qing Pan of the National Art Museum in China, Beijing. A vote will be held during the June 2009 ICOM meetings in Paris on the location of the XXIIIe ICOM Congress in 2013; both Milan and Moscow had submitted excellent proposals. The ICFA Chair reported that he would be approaching former ICFA Chair, Dr Christopher Brown, Director of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, about the possibility of holding the 2011 ICFA meeting in Oxford during the autumn that year. Invitations to hold future ICFA meetings were also kindly offered by Don Bacigalupi, with a study day in Toledo, Ohio, and visits to Detroit and Cleveland, for 2012; and also by Galina Andreeva to Moscow in 2013.

Klaus Weschenfelder kindly offered to set up a website for ICFA; it is expected that this will be up and running in June 2009. At the close of the board meeting, the ICFA plenary meeting commenced and the ICFA Chair reported on the year's events in addition to the future plans.

11.00 to 12.00 Visit to the Herakleidon Museum, Athens (exhibition of prints by Escher)

12.30 to 13.30 Visit to the New Acropolis Museum, Athens (private tour during installation by Dimitris Pandermalis, President, Organization for the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum, designed by Bernard Tschumi, due to fully open to the public in Summer 2009)

16.00 to 17.30 Visit to the Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens (temporary exhibition: 'The Five Seasons of Russian Avant-Garde Art' and 'From Titian to Pietro da Cortona')

18.00 to 20.00 Visit and tour of the Benaki Museum, Athens (private tour by Dr Fani-Maria Tsigakou, Curator of Paintings, Prints and Drawings)

Friday 17th October

Visits by coach and Tours

10.00 to 11.00 Visit, tour and refreshments at the Vorres Museum, Paiania Attica, outside Athens (private tour by Ian Vorres of this collection of 20thc modern and contemporary art)

11.45 to 13.00 Visit, tour and lunch at the National Glyptothek (19thc/ 20th sculpture), Athens

15.30 to 16.30 Visit and tour of the Tsarouchis Museum, Athens

17.15 to 18.15 Visit and tour of the Dakis Ioannou Collection / DESTE Foundation, Athens (permanent collection display of international contemporary art: 'Fractured Figure')

19.00 to 20.00 Visit and refreshments at the temporary exhibition of the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens

Saturday 18th October

Excursion by coach to Nafplio, the Peloponnese

11.00 to 12.00 Visit and Tour of the Alpha Bank collection of modern Greek art (temporary exhibition: 'G. Steris')

12.30 to 13.30: Visit to the National Gallery – Alexandros Soutzos Museum, annex

14.00 to 16.00: Farewell Lunch in a traditional taverna offered by the Friends of the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation and Museum

16.00 to 17.00: Visit to the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation and Museum

Minutes compiled by Dr Stephen Lloyd (ICFA Chair)