

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF
MUSEUMS OF FINE ART

MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS

October 9 - 13, 1996

P r o g r a m m e

Wednesday, October 9

Arrival in Amsterdam

Thursday, October 10

8.30 am	Board meeting, Rijksmuseum
9.00 am	Conference Registration, Rijksmuseum (Aduardkapel)
9.30 am	Plenary session in the Aduardkapel
10.45 am	Coffee
11.00 am	Henk van Os: introduction to the new South Wing of the Rijkseum
11.30 am	Visit the South Wing
.00 pm	Lunch, South Wing
2.00 pm	Introduction to the exhibition 'Jan Steen'
2.30 pm	Visit the exhibition 'Jan Steen'
5.30 pm	Van Gogh Museum, visit the collections with Ronald de Leeuw, director
6.30 pm	Van Gogh Museum, cocktail, light meal

Friday, October 11

9.45 am	Bus transfer to Haarlem (bus leave main entrance Rijksmuseum)
10.30 am	Teylers Museum: coffee; visit the collections
11.15 am	Lecture: "The Teylers Museum and the collections"
12.00 am	Bus transfer to Utrecht
1.00 pm	Lunch in Museum Catharijneconvent
2.00 pm	Introduction to the museum and the exhibition 'The Utrecht Psalter'
2.45 pm	Tea
3.00 pm	Visit the collections
5.00 pm	Bus transfer to Amsterdam - Free evening

Saturday, October 12

- 9.00 am Bus transfer to
Den Haag
- 10.00 am Visit Panorama
Mesdag
- 11.00 am Mesdag Museum -
coffee - visit the
collections
- 12.30 pm Bus transfer to
Leiden
- 1.00 pm Lunch De Lakenhal
Museum
- 2.30 pm De Lakenhal
Museum:
introduction to
the museum; visit
the exhibition
'Jan van Goyen'
- 3.45 pm Bus transfer to
Gouda
- 4.45 pm General meeting
Museum Catharina
Gasthuis
- 5.30 pm Visit museum;
cocktail
- 7.00 pm Dinner, Restaurant
Brunel, Gouda
- 9.30 pm Bus transfer to
Amsterdam - End of
ICFA meeting

Sunday, October 13

Departure

PARTICIPANTS

- Henning Bock, Gemäldegalerie, Berlin, Allemagne
- Katharina Bott, Schloss Weissenstein, Pommersfelden, Allemagne
- Gerhardt Bott, Nürnberg, Allemagne
- Thérèse Burolet, Musée du Petit Palais, Paris, France
- Görel Cavalli-Björkman, Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Suède
- Michael Clarke, National Gallery of Scotland, Edimbourg, Ecosse
- Henri Defoer, Rijksmuseum Het Catharinneconvent, Utrecht, Hollande
- Robert Galbraith, National Gallery of Scotland, Edimbourg, Ecosse
- Ernst Haverkamp, National Gallery of Norway, Oslo, Norvège
- Viviane Huchard, Musée National du Moyen-Age, Paris, France
- Roselyne Hurel, Musée du ^{Cathédrale} Petit Palais, Paris, France
- Christoph Heilmann, Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, Allemagne
- Catherine Johnston, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Konstanty Kalinowski, Museum Narodowe, Poznan, Pologne
- Olaf Koester, Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen, Danemark
- Jacques Kuhnrich, Musée National du château de Compiègne, Compiègne, France
- Julia Lloyd Williams, National Gallery of Scotland, Edimbourg, Ecosse
- Henk Van Os, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Hollande
- Birgitta Sandström, Zornsamlingarna, Mora, Suède
- Tone Skedsmo, Nasjonalgalleriet, Oslo, Norvège
- Nicolette C. Shuijter-Seijffert, Stedelijke musea, Gouda, Hollande
- Bredgaard Stig, Thorvaldsens Museum, Copenhagen, Danemark
- Rivka Weiss-Block, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israël
- Klaus Weschenfelder, Mittelrhein Museum Koblenz, Coblenz, Allemagne
- Jan Piet Filedt Kok, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam
- Nella Bellaar Spruyt, general factotum, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

**Réunion de bureau du Comité ICFA
tenue au Rijksmuseum le jeudi 10 octobre 1996 à 8 H 30**

Présents :

- Henning BOCK, Allemagne
- Görel CAVALLI-BJÖRKMAN, Suède
- Henri DEFOER, Hollande
- Viviane HUCHARD, France, Trésorier
- Catherine JOHNSTON, Canada
- Konstanty KALINOWSKI, Pologne
- Jacques KUHNMUNCH, France, Secrétaire

Absents :

- Henk VAN OS, Hollande, Président
- Alessandro BETTAGNO, Italie, Vice-Président

Henning BOCK, qui dirige les débats, excuse Henk VAN OS, Président en exercice, retenu suite à de graves ennuis familiaux. Cette réunion de bureau est importante. C'est la dernière de l'actuel bureau puisque le Président et le Secrétaire doivent changer cette année. Par ailleurs, Henning BOCK quitte ses fonctions très prochainement et on doit lui trouver un successeur.

Qui sera le nouveau Président ? On évoque le nom de Neil MAC GREGOR, mais cette hypothèse ne peut être retenue. Görel CAVALLI-BJÖRKMAN pressentie fait part de ses difficultés actuelles. La décision finale est repoussée à samedi, après concertation avec les uns et les autres.

Le second point concerne les finances du comité. Viviane HUCHARD rend compte de la trésorerie et explique que l'on a dû retourner, au Getty Grant Program, une partie de la subvention non utilisée en 95.

Deux nouveaux membres entrent au bureau : Nicolette SLUIJTER et Jan KELCH, successeur de Henning BOCK à Berlin.

Konstanty fait part du programme qu'il met au point pour la réunion de 97. Elle se tiendra en Pologne du 16 au 20 octobre. Le thème retenu est le suivant : **le marché de l'art dans les ex-pays de l'Est et le trafic des oeuvres d'art**. Nous visiterons Poznan, Cracovie, Varsovie...

Jacques KUHNMUNCH et l'ensemble du bureau examinent ensuite les candidatures des conservateurs souhaitant devenir membres votants du Comité. Une sélection sévère, respectant les critères du Comité, a été faite.



**Meeting board of ICFA Committee
into the Rijksmuseum - October the 10th - 8 H 30 am**

Present :

- Henning BOCK, Germany
- Görel CAVALLI-BJÖRKMAN, Sweden
- Henri DEFOER, Netherlands
- Viviane HUCHARD, France, Treasurer
- Catherine JOHNSTON, Canada
- Konstanty KALINOWSKI, Poland
- Jacques KUHNMUNCH, France, Secretary

Absent :

- Henk VAN OS, Netherlands, Chairman
- Allessandro BETTAGNO, Italy, Vice-Chairman

Henning BOCK manages the meeting and apologies H. Van Os, the chairman, who had serious familial difficulties.

This committee meeting is very important. It's the last one of this chairman and the secretary who have to move this year. Otherwise, H. Bock leaves his duty in a short time and we have to choose a successor.

Who can be the new chairman ? We speak about the name of Neil Mac Gregor but this hypothesis is not hold back. The second name is Görel Cavalli-Björkman's one. But she develops her actual difficulties. So the final decision will set up on saturday, after confrontation of each other.

The second point concerns the finances. Viviane Huchard speaks about the financial report and explains that a part of the non-used subvention for 95 had to be returned to the Getty Grant Program.

Two new members in the committee : Nicolette Sluijter and Jan Kelch, Henning Bock's successor in Berlin.

Konstanty speaks about the program for 97. The meeting will take place in Poland in October, the 16th to 20th. The thema will be : «Art market in the East european countries and the traffic of Art works». We will visit Poznan, Cracovie, Varsovie.

J. Kuhnunch and the staff of the committee inquire the candidatures of curators who want to become voting members. A severe selection, respecting the criterious of the committee, has be done.



Minutes of the plenary meeting of the ICFA committee Aduardkapel Rijksmuseum - October 10th 96

Present :

- A. Bettagno, Italy
- H. Bock, Germany
- K. Bott, Germany
- G. Bott, Germany
- Th. Burollet, France
- G. Cavalli-Björkman, Sweden
- M. Clarke, Scotland
- H. Defoer, Netherlands
- R. Galbraith, Scotland
- E. Haverkamp, Norway
- V. Huchard, France
- R. Hurel, France
- C. Johnston, Canada
- K. Kalinowski, Poland
- O. Koester, Denmark
- J. Kuhnunch, France
- J. Lloyd Williams, Scotland
- D. Mosby, USA
- R. Mosby, USA
- M. Saabye, Denmark
- S. Sachs II, USA
- B. Sandström, Sweden
- B. Stig, Denmark
- R. Weiss-Blok, Israel
- K. Weschenfelder, Germany

Henning Bock apologises the chairman Henk van os and welcomes the participants. Henri Defoer is pleased that the meeting takes place in Holland and tells us once more that the program is about the new museographic fittings of the Rijksmuseum, the Catharina Convent in Utrecht, the Catharina Gasthuis in Gouda and the museum Mesdag in Den Haag.

He tells us again that we will visit a set of exhibitions of high level (Van Goyen, Jan Steen and the Psalter of Utrecht).

Next speaker is J. Kuhnunch, secretary, who gave the names of the new voting members of the committee. He said that only the curators and directors working in Fine Arts museums can become voting members. That means that 16 curators representing 11 countries are new ICFA members.

V. Huchard presents the financial report. The committee had to give 5 095FF back to the Getty Grant Program. We thought that this money could be given to the East countries colleague but that was not possible. On october the 9th 96, the balance is 19 668,97 FF.

Henning Bock tells us again that chairman and secretary have to change during this year. This question will be discussed on saturday.

Konstanty Kalinowski ends the plenary meeting. Our polish colleague will welcome us in Poland in 97 and gives us the program.

Our chairman invites us to visit the new south wings of the Rijksmuseum which was recently inaugurated.



After lunch taken in the Rijksmuseum, Wouter Th. Klock gives us remarkable explanations about Jan Steen, the choice of the masterpieces for the exhibition and the difficulties to collect them.

The day ended with great pleasure in the Van Gogh Museum where we were welcomed by Ronald de Leeuw, next Rijksmuseum director, with his assistant Andreas Blühm. They showed us the bright exhibition «The sculpture in colors 1840-1910». Everybody could appreciate the taste with which the exhibition was presented.

Thanks again to Ronald for the excellent dinner and the good atmosphere and friendship of this evening party in his museum.

Minutes of the meeting - October 11th 1996 - Haarlem and Utrecht

Present :

- A. Bettagno, Italy
- H. Bock, Germany
- K. Bott, Germany
- G. Bott, Germany
- Th. Burollet, France
- G. Cavalli-Björkman, Sweden
- M. Clarke, Scotland
- H. Defoer, Netherlands
- R. Galbraith, Scotland
- E. Haverkamp, Norway
- V. Huchard, France
- R. Hurel, France
- C. Johnston, Canada
- K. Kalinowski, Poland
- O. Koester, Denmark
- J. Kuhnunch, France
- J.P.F. Kok, Netherlands
- J. Lloyd Williams, Scotland
- D. Mosby, USA
- R. Mosby, USA
- H. van Os, Netherlands
- M. Saabye, Denmark
- S. Sachs II, USA
- B. Sandström, Sweden
- N. Sluijter-Seijffert, Netherlands
- B. Stig, Denmark
- R. Weiss-Blok, Israel
- K. Weschenfelder, Germany

During the day, all the participants went into two very typical towns of Holland : Haarlem and Utrecht. The Teyler's museum in Haarlem, the most ancient of the Netherlands, is always a delight for the spirit which reigns into this place.

Eric Eblinge, the general director, had no difficulty to convince the members that the spaces were so beautiful.

The collection was settled by Pieter Teyler. This man, issued of an english family refugied in Holland during the «Pilgrim Fathers», had no heir. This encyclopedic mind makes him to collect drawings (one of the most beautiful collection in the world), prints, medals and also objects of paleontology, physical instruments and a very rich library.

The museum needed to be extending. A new wing was added by Hubert Hencet, an architect who knew how to conciliate ancient and modern buildings.

The light was particularly well treated. Into an exhibition room, with sifted lights, we can see the most precious drawings of the museum. The two parts of the museum, ancient and modern, complete themselves with harmony and join together into successful transitions. These new fittings will give a new youth to this museum.

The second fact of the day concerned Utrecht where Henri Defoer showed us the Catharijneconvent. We have not anymore to present this museum where we go from masterpiece to masterpiece of the dutch school of painting of the 16th century.

A remarquable exhibition was presented. For the first time, an unique set of carolingian manuscris was presented round of the Psalter of Utrecht, normally saved into the library of the University of the town. This text was written and illustrated in Hautvillers, near of Reims, between 820 and 830. Some ivory boards of bindings were presented too into this exhibition.



Minutes of the meeting - October 12th 1996 Den Haag, Leiden, Gouda

Present :

- A. Bettagno, Italy
- H. Bock, Germany
- K. Bott, Germany
- G. Bott, Germany
- Th. Burollet, France
- G. Cavalli-Björkman, Sweden
- M. Clarke, Scotland
- H. Defoer, Netherlands
- E. Haverkamp, Norway
- V. Huchard, France
- R. Hurel, France
- C. Johnston, Canada
- K. Kalinowski, Poland
- O. Koester, Denmark
- J. Kuhnunch, France
- J.P.F. Kok, Netherlands
- J. Lloyd Williams, Scotland
- D. Mosby, USA
- R. Mosby, USA
- H. van Os, Netherlands
- M. Saabye, Denmark
- S. Sachs II, USA
- B. Sandström, Sweden
- N. Sluijter-Seijffert, Netherlands
- B. Stig, Denmark
- R. Weiss-Blok, Israel
- K. Weschenfelder, Germany

It was a heavy day as far as the program and the visits are concerned. During the whole morning, we pay homage to the painter Hendrick Willem Mesdag (1831-1915). The visit of his «panoramic museum» commented by Ernst M. Storm was one of the biggest surprise of the day. The history of this panorama starts in 1880. Well-known painter in marines, he received the order of this enormous landscape of the North sea. The select view is the dune «Seinpost» in Scheveningen. This view was well-known from the artist who worked often there. After the signature of an agreement with the company «Den Haag Maritime Panorama AG», Mesdag starts working with the help of his wife and of other painters. This circular canvas was made in a year. Mesdag made a view of 360° thanks to a glassed cylinder who served to lay down the outlines he saw. This instrument is still conserved. It contributes to a better understanding the way this painter and his assistants have could realise this enormous painting. This painting answers to the taste of unlimited paintings in the end of the 19th century giving us the opportunity to discover a museography unusual today. The 16 roof windows of the rotunda allow the daylight diversiting the pictural and illusionists effects.

Willem Mesdag was also a collector and we had the honor to inaugurate, ahead of the others, his renovated-museum. During their life, his wife and himself purchased more than 800 paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures. The main part of this collection contains masterpieces of french school of the 19th century (Rousseau, Corot, Pissaro...) and of Den Haag school (Maris, Bosboom). With this collection, Mesdag made a marvellous museum of which he was the first curator. After a lot of vicissitudes, the Van Gogh Museum drives this collection in 1990. Then, start a large program of renovation with the acquisition of a nextdoor house, the building of a garden and a new hall. The next door house is used as a store, offices... Ronald de Leeuw had looking for the spirit of this house as we know that nothing remain of the original interior. Instead of a modern museography, visitors have the feeling of visiting a private house with a forgotten quality of life.

Going on, we arrive in Leiden, an old city well know for its cloth manufactures located in the middle of Rijnland. We visit «De Lakenhal museum». Celebrating the 4th century of Jan Van Goyen's birth (born in Leiden), the museum has organised a very nice retrospective of this painter, one of the most important artist of the dutch Golden Age. With more than 50 paintings, sketches, drawings, we may follow his life as a painter and appreciate simplicity, harmony in colors.

Jan Van Goyen's landscapes are always up-to-dated and the dutch country, we cross to go to Gouda, has fortunatly not much changed since the 17th century. Located at the junction of Ijssel and Gouwe, Gouda groves up from the 15th century thanks to its wholesalers. Each of us was impatient to go at Het Catharina Gasthuis managed by Nicolette Sluijter-Seijffert. This old hospice of which the main-room dates from 1542, includes masterpieces coming from the old monasteries of the town. All of us were admiring the Crucifixion of the Master of Bruges, the Annunciation of Pieter Pourbus the Old, the Suffering of St Jacques of Anthonie van Monfoort and the collective paintings of the members of the guildts by Ferdinand Bol.

An harmonious combination of french paintings of the 19th century (Bonvin, Vollon, Daubigny) completes this presentation and that will be improved in future by Nicolette.

Minutes of the plenary meeting of ICFA committee Catharina Gasthuis Gouda - October 12 th 1996

Present :

- A. Bettagno, Italy
- H. Bock, Germany
- K. Bott, Germany
- G. Bott, Germany
- Th. Burollet, France
- G. Cavalli-Björkman, Sweden
- M. Clarke, Scotland
- H. Defoer, Netherlands
- E. Haverkamp, Norway
- V. Huchard, France
- R. Hurel, France
- C. Johnston, Canada
- K. Kalinowski, Poland
- O. Koester, Denmark
- J. Kuhnunch, France
- J.P.F. Kok, Netherlands
- J. Lloyd Williams, Scotland
- D. Mosby, USA
- R. Mosby, USA
- H. van Os, Netherlands
- M. Saabye, Denmark
- S. Sachs II, USA
- B. Sandström, Sweden
- N. Sluijter-Seijffert, Netherlands
- B. Stig, Denmark
- R. Weiss-Blok, Israel
- K. Weschenfelder, Germany

Henk van Os, assisted by J. Kuhnunch, was the chairman of the last meeting of his mandate. He thanks the members of the board for the work done during the last four years.

The new chairman is elected : Görel Cavalli-Björkman with Catherine Johnston as a secretary. Both are hearty congratulated by the assistance. Two new members in the committee : Nicolette Sluijter-Seijffert and Jan Kelch, Henning Bock's successor in Berlin.

Görel hopes to increase the number of members. Actually, we are 250 voting members and 654 members in the role.

Konstanty precises that, next year, the thema will concern the illicit traffic of masterpieces in East Europe after 1990.

During the friendship dinner, each member takes the opportunity to thank Henk and Jacques for their action in favour of ICFA committee.



THE SOUTH WING OF THE RIJKSMUSEUM

A new museum in a museum

After three years of important transformation works, the south wing of the Rijksmuseum is opened to the public on april the 29th 1996. The collections of paintings of the 18th and 19th centuries, of Asiatics Arts, of textiles and costumes are the new striking front sight point in a building which has have a complete metamorphosis.

A building with an history

As soon as the reception of the works in the Rijksmuseum, the architect Cuypers began in 1887 to think out a new plan for the background part of the building. Rijksmuseum had received numerous elements of architecture from all over the Netherlands during the era of extensions of cities. Numerous cities breaked down all theirs old walls and sent their last fragments to the Rijksmuseum. Cuypers decided to place a lot of them in the garden (as the doors of the towns of Groningen or Deventer for example). He decided, too, to build a new building with the most important fragments which testify the history of architecture in Holland. This building has been called the fragments building ans has been joined to the principal building by a corridor built in 1892 and opened in 1898.

In 1904, Mr and Mrs Drucker Fraser leaved to the Rijksmuseum their important collection of 19th century dutch paintings with one condition : that the new rooms should be opened with own entries. These rooms have been joined to the fragments building in two parts. The plan was from Cuypers but was realised by his son Jos. In 1919, the complete Rijksmuseum was opened.

New period, new needs

Needs of museums become more and more severe. The south wing did not have conditioned air that means, that in summer, temperature could rise to be inbearable for visitors and art woks. Furthermore facilities for visitors were insuffisant. Lobby, toilets, cloackroom were too small. No lift and no conditioned air. No storage rooms for art works.

In 1990, the architect Quist, with the director of the Rijksmuseum, think about the renovations. Quist said : «Don't be too prudent !». The south wing will win to have a deep transformation to give light and best conditions for visiting and ideal climat.

The «Koninklijke PTT Nederland NV» helped the renovation by an enormous subvention. From there, the ministry of VROM and the ministry of WVC gave more money for the works. In february 1993, works began with a budget of 23 millions of Florins.

Space, light and discovers

A new cave was dug under the building. That was very difficult as far as the ground of Amsterdam is concerned and by the fact that this cave was dug under an existant building.

The next point was to change stairs and light. Quist chose a central lift, like that the structure of the rooms was clearer. Quist made a new lobby, the rooms were extended with new and clearer corridors and installed under the roof the machine for conditioned air.

An important point of the renovation was to make possible that the daylight can enter in the removed rooms. Quist installed at the background of the building a very large window which shows a magnificent view on the principal building to visitors. And on the groundfloor, Quist re-opened the windows.

The corridor to the principal building has been transformed in a sort of white box. And when the ceiling fell down, we discovered original decorative paintings. So, Quist decided to give back original style. The windows were re-opened like in the original situation in 1892.

In 1906, a 18th century ceiling and a wardrobe from a house of the Schickade of Rotterdam were integrated into the stairs of the south wing.

In 1923, this room was embellished by wainscots ans three new-made wardrobes and chinese tapistry. now this room is in original style.

The collections

We have three collections :

- Paintings

At the upper stage are exhibited into the Quist's new fitted rooms collections of dutch paintings from 18th and 19th.

It's the first time that we can see in one room, such a complete collection with Breiter, Israels, Weissenbruch, Troost and Mauve. A separate room will be destined to the important collection of pastel of 18th century.

- Asiatic arts

Since 1952 the Rijksmuseum owns a special collection of Asiatic arts loaned by the Vereniging van Vrienden der Aziatische Kunst. Great chinese statues, indonesian gold plates, japanese paintings can be seen in new rooms fitted by Manfred Kausen.

- Textile and costumes

Renovation of south wing offered rooms to exhibit large collections of textile and costumes where, every six month, we can admire new presentation