

and conferences, apart from big international congresses that are announced a year or longer before the respective date. For short-term announcements we would like to suggest that the IAA website and IAA Newsflash be used (announcements should be sent to demul@fwb.eur.nl). In the *Newsletter* the policy will be to include more academic content. As we want the younger generation of scholars to join the activities of the IAA more frequently, we especially would like to invite them to submit short articles (3000/4000 words) on their research for publication in the *Newsletter* (see the announcement of the essay competition elsewhere in the *Newsletter*). For young scholars this might offer an excellent channel for entering the international scene. In addition, from *Newsletter* no. 35 on, for each issue we will invite one particular national society to present itself, for example through a short overview of the national scholarship, a brief representative article (2500 words) of one of its members, and/or a review of a recent key publication in the (national) domain of aesthetics. All contributions should be in English, German, or French. We hope that these new initiatives will make the *Newsletter* more attractive to readers. It will contain more pages and for that reason will be more expensive to produce, but because of the new distribution policy we will save substantially on postage costs.

With regard to the *Yearbook*, we have also decided to continue the recent tradition of online publication on the IAA website. It is left to the editors to investigate the possibilities of an additional publication in hard copy. The editors are supposed to secure the financial resources for the editing and printing of the *Yearbook*. However, a partial subsidy from the IAA is possible. The editorial responsibilities for the yearbooks of 2008 have been assumed by Jale Erzen (Turkey), Curtis Carter (USA), and Wang Keping (China). We are looking forward to the coming volumes!

Another initiative, which in fact is an attempt to give several earlier events a more solid body, is the founding of a workgroup that will promote intercultural aesthetics in theory and practice. One of the aims of this workgroup, which will be chaired by Heinz Paetzold, the former President of the IAA, is to promote the organization of a yearly conference on intercultural aesthetics, in between the ICAs. These international, but small-scale conferences should be organized by the national societies of aesthetics.

During the meeting of the EC the organizers of the XVIII ICA in Beijing, China (2010) informed us of their progress. It promises to be another remarkable congress! The EC also discussed the proposal of the Polish Society to organize the XIX ICA in Cracow, Poland (2013). This will be a special occasion because this congress is to be held exactly one hundred years after the first ICA in Berlin (1913). In the spring of 2008 it will be clear if the necessary national funds have been secured by the Polish Society and a final decision on the venue will then be made. Another candidate for the organization of the ICA in 2013 or 2016 is the Korean National Society of Aesthetics.

In the previous *Newsletter*, which was published just before the Ankara Congress, the results of the elections for the new EC were published. However, as part of the EC is elected during the General Assembly, the definitive composition of the EC was not yet known at the time. It is my great pleasure to inform you that Jörg Gleiter (DU) has been elected Assistant Secretary General and that Anthony Cascardi (USA), Susan Habib (IR), and Feng Peng (CN) have been elected Delegates at Large for the period 2007-2010.

To conclude, I wish to thank the former EC and its officers for their dedication with regard to the many activities of the

IAA. And of course, I would also like to express my sincere hope that we will continue, and if possible even intensify, our international collaboration in the domain of aesthetics.

Jos de Mul  
 President of the IAA/AIE

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## FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

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I am happy to see the new issue of the *Newsletter*, which is coming out now due to the great efforts of our editor and the contributors. We are going to announce some of the decisions made by the IAA Executive Committee during the 2007 Ankara International Congress for Aesthetics in the minutes, which are to be published in this issue. Please read them, and if you have any comments and suggestions, please inform me.

As we decided in Ankara, the list of the members of our Association should be updated constantly. Although it is a difficult and time-consuming work, it has to be done. Anyone who participated in the Ankara congress and paid the Congress registration fee or has paid the membership fee in some other way, please send an email to gaojianpingwork@gmail.com, and inform me of your address, telephone and fax numbers, and any other relevant information. Please inform me also in the event of any recent changes to your address. I would also like to ask the IAA delegates to help me gather the information of the collective members, i.e. the national societies.

The preparation work for the Beijing Congress is proceeding smoothly. The IAA EC members of the Chinese Society for Aesthetics are to meet shortly after the Chinese New Year, which this year is on February 7th, and formally start the preparations of the Congress. Please send me any suggestions regarding the congress that you may have.

The next three issues of the *IAA Yearbook* are all in the editing process, thanks to the endeavors of our colleagues Jale Erzen, Curtis Carter, and Wang Keping respectively. I often check the website of our Association only to find that Jos de Mul has updated it again.

I assumed the office of IAA Secretary-General only some months ago, so many things are new to me. I will try my best to carry out the tasks that an IAA Secretary-General is supposed to accomplish. If any of you have suggestions regarding this, please drop me a note.

Gao Jianping  
 Secretary General of the IAA/AIE

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## **XVII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF AESTHETICS**

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**"AESTHETICS BRIDGING CULTURES"**  
**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU).**  
**Ankara, Turkey, 9-13 July 2007**

### **Report**

**The XVIIth International Congress of Aesthetics was held 9th to 13th July at the Middle Eastern Technical University, Ankara, Turkey and it was organised by Jale Erzen. The main venue was the Cultural and Convention Centre and this was supplemented by rooms in buildings nearby, making it reasonably easy to get from one session to another without missing events. Del-**

legates were mainly accommodated in university residential facilities, again with easy access to conference events. The campus itself is beautiful and civilised, the atmosphere was peaceful, the students were polite, friendly and helpful and the weather was excellent. As the university's teaching language is English, Anglophones could feel at home and I wasn't aware of anyone experiencing linguistic difficulties. Altogether the venue was excellent and set a standard for later conferences. Jale's organisational abilities are superb, as guests to her previous conferences would have been very aware, and she had an excellent team of postgraduates on hand to help her with the day to day facilitation of the event.

By the time that contributors turned up to the event they could already have familiarised themselves with its programme from its website. On registration every delegate was given a gigantic professional produced book for the event, along with a set of errata and corrections, giving more detailed information about the congress, its exhibitions and events with a complete set of abstracts of all the papers that were to be given. This was given to delegates in a strong bag to carry it. There was a good balance of plenary sessions, artists presentations, panels, exhibitions and special artistic events. Human nature being what it is, there were some hiccups in the organisation but these were largely due to delegates not taking the trouble to fully digest the information given to them. After the event Jale created a website to disseminate the contents of the conference papers, which is now available through the IAA website and at <http://www.sanart.org.tr/congresses.htm>, where papers may be read in full and in their original languages. Jale is also planning hard copy publication of a selection from the proceedings, though this will take longer to emerge. This should, again, set a standard for future congresses. Ken-ichi Sasaki did a superb job on the publication of the Makuhari proceedings and Jale should be complemented for following his example, though I should add that this was utterly consistent with her publication of SANART (the national society) conference proceedings. Yet again, with human nature being what it is, the publication project was only let down by a few delegates' failure to send in their papers.

As for the event itself, there were participants from 42 countries with good representations from Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It was particularly strong in the variety of disciplines of its contributors and, consistent with the activities of SANART, there was strong representation from artists and cultural workers in the public domain. There were significantly fewer 'old faces' from the IAA, with far fewer Americans and Brits than one would have expected from the past. [Perhaps this was down to nervousness at attending an event in Turkey but such wariness was completely unjustified. As a frequent visitor to Turkey I have always been impressed by its friendliness and hospitality and would strongly recommend a visit. The evidence of METU's standing as an international centre of academic excellence was patently obvious across the campus.] What was lacking in analytic aesthetics was more than made up for by the presence of alternative approaches to aesthetics, both academic and practical. It was impossible for one person to attend all of the papers presented and it would be somewhat arbitrary to select any out for individual consideration. What came through very strongly was the sheer vitality of the subject in its most comprehensive sense. Without wishing to ride an old hobby horse, this congress saw a return to the ambitions of its original founders: a concern to address works of art, environments and the natural world in their aesthetic dimension from the widest possible perspective. The conference organisers achieved their ambitions to explore the topic of "Aesthetics Bridging Cultures" as may be evidenced by the

published papers. I had a number of eye-opening and memorable experiences made more vivid through the energy and obvious excitement of their presenters. As I said, it would be invidious to pick out individuals since that would leave other deserving cases unmentioned. Do please take this opportunity to visit the Congress website yourselves and make your own judgements. Congratulations are due to Jale and her teams of helpers, the staff at METU, the university and, not least, the contributors for an inspiring and memorable event.

*Richard Woodfield*

## CONFERENCES AND CONGRESSES

THE XXII WORLD CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY  
 Seoul, Korea, July 30 – August 5, 2008

The XXIIth World Congress of Philosophy will be held in Seoul, July 30-August 5, 2008, on the general theme of "Rethinking Philosophy Today". Among the sections are: "Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art", "Images and Symbols", "Philosophy and Literature", "Philosophy of Culture", etc.

The website of the Congress is: [www.wcp2008.or.kr](http://www.wcp2008.or.kr).

*Ken-ichi Sasaki*

IV MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS OF AESTHETICS  
 Irbid, Jordan, June 22-25, 2008

In November 2000 the Michelis Foundation and the Hellenic Society for Aesthetics organized the first Mediterranean Congress of Aesthetics ("Aesthetics on the Threshold of the Third Millennium"). The second congress then took place in Carthage (Tunisia) in March 2003. It was entitled "Spaces and Memory," and was organized by l'Association Tunisienne d'Esthétique et de Poïétique. The third congress was held in Portorož (Slovenia) in September 2006 on the topic of "Imagination, Sensuality, Art." It was organized by the Slovenian Society for Aesthetics and University of Primorska. The fifth, to be held in June or early July 2011, is to be in Murcia, Spain.

The most recent, the fourth Mediterranean Congress of Aesthetics, held in Irbid, Jordan, had as its theme "Art and Time." Over 60 participants presented papers in English, French, and Arabic. The keynote speakers were Aleš Erjavec (Ljubljana; "Aesthetics and the Aesthetic: Today"), Jale Erzen (Ankara; "Time in the City and in the Arts, A Comparative Analysis: East and West"), Maryvonne Saison (Paris; "Le 'présent' de l'art au risque du 'temps réel'"), and Pol Capdevila (Barcelona; "Aesthetic Forms through Time and in Time-Based Arts").

The congress initiator and chief organizer was Professor Khalid Alhamzah, from Yarmouk University, Irbid. It was this university that jointly with the national Ministry of Culture organized the congress and the accompanying events. In the following year the organizers intend to publish the congress proceedings.

During or immediately after the congress the participants visited some of the outstanding cultural sites of Jordan: the remains of Jarash (Jerasa) and Um Qais, and Petra.

Mediterranean congresses for aesthetics bring together academics and artists with an interest in a wide range of academic disciplines, in philosophy, and in the arts. For the most part