

1-1-2013

Knowledge and Action: IAA President's Remarks: Opening Ceremonies, International Congress of Aesthetics

Curtis L. Carter

Marquette University, curtis.carter@marquette.edu

Marquette University

e-Publications@Marquette

Philosophy Faculty Research and Publications/College of Arts and Sciences

This paper is NOT THE PUBLISHED VERSION; but the author's final, peer-reviewed manuscript. The published version may be accessed by following the link in the citation below.

IAA Newsletter. Vol. 43, (2013): 2. This article is © International Association for Aesthetics and permission has been granted for this version to appear in e-Publications@Marquette. International Association for Aesthetics does not grant permission for this article to be further copied/distributed or hosted elsewhere without the express permission from International Association for Aesthetics.

Knowledge and Action

IAA President's Remarks: Opening Ceremonies

International Congress of Aesthetics
Krakow, July 21, 2013

Curtis Carter

Department of Philosophy, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

"Knowledge and Action always require each other. It is like a person who cannot walk without legs although he has eyes, and who cannot see without eyes although he has legs...When one knows something but has not yet acted on it, his knowledge is still shallow." Chinese Philosopher Chu Hsi (1130-1200c.e.)

Introduction

One of the pleasures of our participation in the International Congress of Aesthetics is that it brings us together in so many wonderful parts of the world. Dubrovnik, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Ankara, Beijing, and now the beautiful city of Krakow. The other is the diversity of people from so many cultures. Every Congress never fails to bring opportunities for new and lasting friendships that add enrichment to our personal lives and opportunities to share ideas and professional development. Hence, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you all on behalf of the IAA Executive Committee to what promises to bring to us all new understanding and opportunities for growth and service. The Title of our Congress developed under the leadership of Professor Krystyna Wilkożewska, President of the Polish Society of Aesthetics and her colleagues, "Aesthetics in Action" already signals a direction for the future of IAA.

Let me now acknowledge Krystyna Wilkożewska and her colleagues for their thoughtful and effective efforts in shaping the organization and providing the platform for us all to come together today. This effort of course requires the participation of many working in support of the efforts: institutional, financial, and collaborative necessary to the success of the Congress. To Wojciech Nowak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University and Dean of

the Philosophical Faculty we express our appreciation and congratulations; Then representing the city: the Honorable Jacek Majchrowski Mayor of Krakow or Magdalena Sroka Vice – Mayor of Krakow our thanks for your support of this important Congress. It is a special honor to recognize the role of the Senior members of the Polish Society who have assisted with this Congress and also have been active with IAA for many years: Professors Alicja Kuczynska, Teresa Kostyrko, Bodhan Dziemidok, Maria Golaszewska, and Iriana Wojnar. And a special thanks to the Krakow Museums and cultural organizations who have extended their hospitality and to the Polish artists who will enrich our stay with their creations.

II. Achievements of IAA Since Beijing Congress

It is a high honor to be selected as President of IAA and also a responsibility to provide leadership to the organization. During the past three years I have endeavored to address certain needs of IAA that seemed apparent as we gathered for the opening of the Beijing Congress. Let me summarize briefly some of the efforts and where we are on these issues.

1. Communications: In every international organization communications among the member societies and the individual members is essential. To this end we have taken two important steps: The creation of a new Website developed under the leadership of Web Editor Jos de Mul that allows for interactive communications and information and the renewal of the IAA Newsletter under the Editorship of Alan Shear with assistance of Jos de Mul. This train now runs on schedule twice annually with contributions from members and member societies as a host of information from other organizations.
2. New Relations with other international Organizations concerned with Aesthetics. In an effort to advance collaboration and cooperation with other international Organizations concerned with aesthetics we have established IAA membership in the FISP the group which organized the World Congress of Philosophy. At the same time we have invited the European Society of Aesthetics to participate in IAA, requiring a bylaws change allowing for international as well as National Societies.
3. Application to the UN NGO organizations has been submitted and is under review by that group.
4. Recognition of the need to support the participation of younger scholars and graduate students. In IAA. Apropos of this interest, the IAA Executive Committee at its meeting in Bologna in May, 2012 approved funding for 10 younger scholars' awards in the amount of \$500 each. The first group received awards and presented their papers at this Congress.
5. IAA Yearbook of Aesthetics. The 2011 Yearbook under editorship of Renee Van der Vall and Jos de Mul (*Gimmie Shelter*) and the 2013 year book under editorship of Raffaele Milani and Jale Erzen (*Nature and the City*) are now in Print.
6. Plans for the 2015 interim Conference will take place in Belgrade hosted by the Belgian Society and the 2016 Congress in Seoul Korea.

A Final Word

When IAA was founded the framework of national societies offered a useful base for operations. And these societies remain important to the structure of IAA. As we look to the future of IAA it will be necessary to think globally, as well as nationally. It is in this spirit that we welcome the membership of the European Society and recent affiliation with FISP.