

Press Release dated 25 January 2010

„A Day of Contemporary Sculpture“

Over 500 artists and friends of sculpture gathered in six different nations for sculpture network's New Year's Brunch 2010, communicating among 19 cities through video and audio transmission.

“...there was a lot of conversation around the artists and their work.

I was actually surprised to see more interest in the art than in the food and drinks!”

Beatriz Blanch, artist and correspondent for sculpture network in Madrid

On Sunday, 17 January, 2010 friends of sculpture – artists, art mediators, art enthusiasts – came together in 19 different cities throughout Europe for a common toast to the New Year via several video and audio conferences. A total of more than 500 people met on this day in six different countries and enjoyed themselves at a New Year's brunch dedicated to the support and advancement of contemporary sculpture. This was a huge success, especially when you consider the fact that this idea just came up and was circulated by *sculpture network* in the middle of December 2009. *sculpture network* is the network organisation for modern sculpture (www.sculpture-network.org) enabling commitment to three-dimensional art in all of Europe through its correspondents and members in many different European countries.

The Chairman of sculpture network, Ralf Kirberg, made the following comment on the success of this event: *“I am very happy to see that the idea has borne fruit and that it met with immediate enthusiasm by our members in Spain, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Just experiencing how direct socialising brings forth new ideas and projects is most gratifying for me. I am convinced that these things happen only through congenial relationships, person to person. Should further institutions, friends of the arts and political decision-makers in Europe join us at our 2011 brunch, we would be a big step further towards achieving the network's goal of gaining more recognition for sculpture. Inasmuch as this was our first such event, it was for us and for contemporary sculpture in any case a great success.”*

The venues were galleries, such as, for example, *Tom Maddock Studio* in Barcelona (E) or *KunstRaum Bernusstraße* in Frankfurt (D), studios, sculpture associations as in Amsterdam (NL) and Ljubljana (SLO), as well as art and sculpture institutes, such as the *Fundación Pons* in Madrid (E). In addition, art collectors as, for instance, Christian Schwarm of *“independent collectors”* in Stuttgart, were prepared to make space available for exchanging thoughts and ideas.

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Aside from the informal get-together, artists showed their work, thought was given to new projects, ideas were discussed and much conversation devoted to sculpture. The event centered on relaxed encounters, leading to a network for the realisation of new events, sculpture projects and exhibitions, as well as sales.

At individual locations up to 80 friends of the arts, collectors, art dealers and sculptors attended. In Munich the New Year's event was especially popular, with approximately 80 guests. Art enthusiasts in Madrid and Amsterdam celebrated contemporary sculpture with about 60 participants each. The celebrations in the art-loving cities of Berlin, Barcelona, Bern and Vienna were well attended by anywhere from 30 to 60 guests. This meeting at the beginning of the year was organised for members of *sculpture network* but was open also for anyone interested.

The Venues 2010

Germany: Berlin, Bodenburg/Hildesheim, Dachau near Munich, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt/Main, Groß Grönau near Lübeck, Hamburg, München, Stuttgart, Ulm; **Austria:** Vienna; **Switzerland:** Bern, Zurich; **Spain:** Barcelona, Badalona (near Barcelona), Madrid; **The Netherlands:** Amsterdam; **Slovenia:** Ljubljana.

Direct Feedback

„It was really a great event for personal and virtual contact and a boost for going international...food for stomach and mind!“ Dick Simonis, Member from Amsterdam

“It was a most agreeable event... I must comment that everyone is pleased with sculpture network and the activities you promote. Congratulations.” Art Dealer, Tom Maddock Studio, Barcelona

“Even if all was not technically perfect, the fact that we all celebrated together at different locations was fantastic.” Nils Schultze, Light Artist from Berlin

“It was a very productive day.” Marina Grützmaier, Art Dealer, KunstRaum Bernusstraße

About sculpture network

sculpture network offers those interested in contemporary sculpture and three-dimensional art a platform with much appropriate information and the possibility of professional exchange. As a European non-profit organisation, this international network supports interdisciplinary dialogue and the conveying of ideas among artists, art mediators and friends of the arts. At present *sculpture network* has 700 members in 34 different countries. For further information: www.sculpture-network.org

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