

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - UPF

Eurasia & Europe: Cooperating for a Culture of Peace & Human Development

(UNESCO-HQ, 125 avenue de Suffren, Paris VIIe, France, Tuesday 3rd - Wednesday 4th December 2013)

The Arts as Enabler of Cultural Cooperation and Facilitator of a Culture of Peace

Dr. Stefan Stoev,¹ Chairman and Founder of the IDEA Society²

Christoph Bathelt,³ MA, Ambassador of the IDEA Society

On November 18, 2011, the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna hosted the premiere of the PANGAEA Art Collection for World Peace. Twelve outstanding artists, aged between 30 and 85 from all over the world were selected to participate in IDEA Society's PANGAEA project. They all worked on a common topic, painting an image of "Our Society Today and Tomorrow".

The artists: Ljubomir Dimov, Manuela Holban, Vesselina Zagralova, Otto Schwarz, Milan Vukovich, Kurt Heinrich, Juliana Do, Kent Wahlbeck, Elena Georgieva, Alexander Rinesch, Anna Lepigina and Jean Carlos Piña Sará, presented their artistic messages to the diverse audience, bringing forth social and cultural topics from society today and concerns about the future.

In his opening address for the exhibition, Peter Haider, the UPF Director General in Austria, underlined the importance of the arts as a visual guide to the appreciation of different cultures.

The PANGAEA exhibition at The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization once again wants to highlight UNESCO's aims to safeguard and promote cultural diversity on a global scale to preserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as to foster intercultural dialogue.⁴

¹ Stefan Stoev is Founder and Chairman of the Society for International Development and Enhancement of Arts (IDEA Society). He is also engaged as Ambassador for Peace, Universal Peace Federation (UPF), and Consul of the InterNations Vienna Arts and Culture Club. He is involved for many years as Expert and Advisor to the United Nations and the European Economic and Social Committee. Stoev has published numerous scientific and social articles, and is an alumnus of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) and the World Bank Toastmasters Diplomatic Speech Club in Washington, DC. In the private sector Stoev is holding senior executive positions in international companies in the production and energy sector.

² The IDEA Society is a non-profit cultural organization based in Vienna, Austria. The Society represents the creation of a global cultural platform for bringing together artists from across the world. Through partnerships with other cultural institutions worldwide and by offering an internet-based cultural portal to the public, the IDEA Society aims the enhancement of international and cultural exchange. The major goal is to promote better understanding among different cultures in order to create tolerant and harmonious coexistence. This cultural platform offers a basis for joint initiatives for participants from all over the world. Our projects and events are addressing established and young artists, as also creative children. Through the initiation of global art campaigns it is in our effort to raise awareness for social engagements and to support charity organization.
Website: www.idea-society.org

³ Christoph Bathelt holds a Master's Degree in Modern History. He has many years of experience as marketing specialist, working for the graphical paper and cartonboard industry. Born in Mainz, Germany and after stays in Braunschweig, Riga, Glasgow and Brussels, Mr Bathelt has moved 2011 to Vienna, Austria. Besides his study interest for East European history, his main interest is the cultural heritage and politics of Central and Eastern Europa since the early 19th century, with an active passion for the arts, music and literature.

⁴ http://www.unesco.at/kultur/index_eng.htm

On October 21, 1942, Peggy Guggenheim announced the opening of her art gallery “Art of this Century” in New York, which was dedicated to saving as many paintings and sculptures as possible from the German onslaught in Europe and bring them to America.⁵

Three years later, after UNESCO was founded on November 16, 1945, it made the pioneering art and cultural preservation mission of Peggy Guggenheim part of its own mandate.

Approaches always start with a dream, and this is what we need: Courage to dream because “Only a dreamer can explore the world in a long lasting way” (Egon Friedell). Artists are always dreamers because they first must have a vision, before they create their art. Art serves as an access point to different people, different mentalities and different cultures.

“No country is a different one, just another.” explains Kurt to Lydia in Tucholsky's “Gripsholm Castle”. The created “arte factum”, the artifact is a messenger between tides, generations, countries, and cultures. As a time capsule, it enables us to travel between ages and souls, to carry messages between all of us. “But it is a great delight /To enter in the spirit of the ages and to see/ How once a sage before us thought and then how we/ Have brought things on at last to such a splendid height” (Goethe, Doctor Faustus).

An indispensable feature of art is its ability to convey information in an evaluative aspect. Art is a combination of man's cognitive and evaluative attitudes towards reality, recorded in words, colors, plastic forms or melodically arranged sounds. Like philosophy, art also has a profoundly communicative function. People communicate to others about their feelings through it, their most intimate and infinitely varied and poignant thoughts. A common feature of art and philosophy is the wealth they both contain of cognitive, moral and social substance.

Pangaea's philanthropic approach is to bring back humanity on canvas. In times of political tension, the necessity of fostering dialogue through the arts is even more crucial for offering an alternative to maintain strong and positive relations.

ART for peace is way to create a CULTURE for peace, a culture OF peace. (“Art for peace” is, by the way, a great contest also initiated by the United Nations.)

Art is a messenger that works without words and languages; it will be understood beyond educational or cultural boundaries. The questions that arise within us will open the dialogue with other viewers.

⁵ 59a and b, press release, „Peggy Guggenheim to open Art Gallery ‚Art of this Century‘“, New York Public Library Pamphlet Box, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.

“Some people believe that the specific feature of art is that the artist expresses his own intellectual world, his own intrinsic individuality. But this is not quite true. In any active creativity, any act that reflects and transforms life, a person also expresses himself. And the higher the level of creativity, in this case artistic, the higher the level of generalization, and hence the universal, despite all the individuality of the form. 'Man's individuality or singularity is not a barrier to the universality of the will, but is subordinated to it. A just or moral, in other words, a fine action, although performed by one individual, is nevertheless approved by all. Everyone recognizes himself or his own will in this act. Here there occurs the same thing as in a work of art. Even those who could not create such a work find their own essence expressed therein. Such a work is therefore truly universal. The more its individual creator dissolves in it, the more approval it earns” (Alexander Sprikin).

By bringing together artists of different origins and countries, PANGAEA promotes peaceful dialogue and reflection at all levels.

“Life is serious, art is bright” (Friedrich Schiller). We would like to invite everyone here cordially to join us in a bright and challenging quest and discover with us the ideas and messages gathered by the artists of PANGAEA.

PANGEA PANGA^{EA}



Milan Vukovich



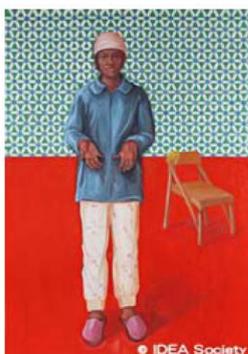
Manuela Holban



Otto Schwarz



Juliana DO



Vesselina Zagralova



Jean Carlos Piña Sará



Kent Wahlbeck



Elena Georgieva



Ljubomir Dimov



Kurt F.J. Heinrich



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