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1- The new Status of IAA within UNESCO

Following the decision of the 36th UNESCO General Conference (October-November 2011) regarding the new classification of the NGO partners with UNESCO, the Executive Board officially recognized IAA AIAP as “Consultative NGO” in February 2012.

The advantages and the obligations regarding this classification are explained on the following website: [http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002150/215084e.pdf](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002150/215084e.pdf)

See Resolution 36C/108

2- The launching of the first “World Art Day”, created by IAA

In April 2011, during the last IAA General Assembly held in Guadalajara, Mexico, the President of the Turkish National Committee, Bedri Baykam, proposed to create a “World Art Day” which would be celebrated each year all over the world. This proposal was co-signed by the representatives of China, Cyprus, France, Japan, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, and was unanimously voted by the Assembly.

Leonardo da Vinci’s personality - as a painter, sculptor, thinker, writer, innovator, mathematician, philosopher - was chosen as a reference and consequently, the date of his birthday, April 15th, hold for the first celebration of this “World Art Day”.

Of course this celebration is not reserved to the only members of IAA, but open to all the artists and art lovers in the world who want to participate to this event. Actually, the idea is to promote a day that points out the importance of Art, independently of age, race, or
religion. All IAA National Committees were invited to contribute to the “World Art Day”, through exhibitions, panel discussions, posters, banners and festivities, thus emphasizing the role of art in reaching peace and freedom. Galleries, Museums and art associations are similarly invited to organize specific activities and join efforts to amplify this celebration.

Rosa Maria Burillo, the President of IAA, declared about this first “World Art Day”:

“Art is the most genuine expression of the human soul, shaped in images, words, sounds and movements enduring reflections that describes us the story of humanity race. World Art Day will permit to all the artists and art lovers to feel the power and the preciousness of art simultaneously and let all of us breathe its importance all nations of the World”.

The text of the complete proposal is available in the following piece:

_Declaration of Guadalajara_

**THE ACCEPTED PROPOSITION TEXT READ IN GUADALAJARA – MEXICO**

_A PROPOSITION FROM THE TURKISH COMMITTEE UPSD_

_TO THE 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IAA WORLD CONGRESS_

_IN GUADALAJARA_

_WE MUST ESTABLISH A “WORLD ART DAY”...

_THE BIRTHDAY OF LEONARDO DA VINCI, APRIL 15 MAY BE A GOOD CANDIDATE TO BECOME “WORLD ART DAY”_

_Dear IAA World members, dear Congress participants,_

_As we all know, the World is going in many wrong directions. It is hard to repeat everything here, but we are all aware of the greedy wars, the daily assaults against human values, the economic and political interests taking precedence over human rights and ideologies of for nuclear power and arms, coupled with insincere relations between countries are undermining the importance of the humanitarian, artistic and ethic values that we all cherish. Last but not the least, the growing pressures coming from various totalitarian regimes, created on the basis of political value or religious extremism are threatening the general foundations of democracy that we all cherish.

_The turmoil our world is currently living through, needs the power that freedoms of thought, and speech can bring to this tumultuous world. And who better to lead this effort than the “Artists” of this World._
Over the course of history, people have established dates to remind us of important values in our life. “Mother’s Day”, “Father’s Day”, “Lover’s Day (St Valentine’s)”, “World Peace Day”, “World Theater Day” are among those days that the World celebrates with care and respect.

I propose that we need to establish, as soon as possible, a “World Art world since the beginning of time. Establishing such an important day worldwide, would definitely help the present and future generations grasp the importance that art has had on our world over the centuries. There is clearly a growing need for the world to recognize the importance that art has had on our planet and to bring to the forefront the role that artists has had on civilization. In the past there have been some feeble efforts to recognize he intricate value and importance of art through such a move, however with very little success. There is no “World Art Day” that is celebrated worldwide.

We have thought about the issue in depth as the Turkish Committee and decided to suggest to the 17th General Assembly in Guadalajara as “World Art Day”, the day of birth of the great Italian Renaissance Man, one of the most creative human beings to be born, the greatly respected painter, sculptor, thinker, writer, scientific these titles a great artist, Leonardo da Vinci.

Of course one could have chosen from many of the World’s most respected and honorable persons in the arts field. From Caravaggio to Goya, from Michelangelo to Rembrandt, from Picasso to Dali or Duchamp... But in our opinion none represent the spirit and values which we each hold so important as those coming from the wise Italian man from Tuscany in the vicinity of Florence. In our opinion, Da Vinci, stands head and shoulder above all the other honorable artists who have left their permanent mark on our World. Leonardo’s discoveries in anatomy, civil engineering, optics, hydrodynamics and also his versatility in his creative search that comes with a feverish inventive imagination, his calm yet determined personality, his capacity to bring various disciplines together along with his charismatic character that have survived “the test of time”, have made his birthday the most suitable date for the World to celebrate “World Art Day”. That’s why we wanted suggest this date. Since art depicts after all the revolution of new ideas, the eclosion of the creative spirit, a beautiful spring day would stand out to carry this feeling of freshness and hope. (Sorry for our Australian, South American and African friends and others in the South hemisphere :) Anyway “springtime” which depicts the rejuvenation of life is only a secondary reason for suggesting Leonardo’s Birthday.

We suggest that April 15, 2012, become the first day of universal celebration of the “World Art Day”.

This decision would give a big economic boost to the arts, many municipalities, universities, museums and foundations. Most, if not all of these institutions would generate new funds to celebrate this date and recognize the historical importance of art on the development of humanity, and propel these institutions to launch projects that would recognize the value and contributions of artist from around the World for all the generations to follow.
Many persons could be tempted to start their first art collections and many artist young and old would stand more chances to be remembered and commemorated on such a day when the whole World would be thinking and breathing art. We envision a day in which every museum and gallery of the World with open-night events that would last till midnight... Besides the economic boost it would provoke, special affection and respect to the art world. Art and Artists would become dominant on that day and wrong doings of censorship and other even greater evils would be much harder to defend with the weight created with the “World Art Day”...

We hope to have created in you the same enthusiasm that we are feeling with this amendment proposal. Just imagine how this decision would from this day on change the lives of so many millions of artists, for the better, through a common simultaneous celebration. From China to Serbia, to Australia and Mexico, from Sweden to the Phillipines, to Egypt, England and France, the World would be united under the drive and spirit that represents our profession. One thing is sure: The establishing of such a day, can not do any harm and can only help fuel a better World.

Of course that it will not be easy to promote this dream and vision worldwide. As challenging as it will be, it’s also very possible. It is not unthinkable that such a day can be established worldwide. If this General Assembly stands up today and votes for this decision, each one of our national Committees will bear the responsibility and honor to share this historic decision with their members and all the museums and galleries in their country, along and with the Ministry of Culture of their respective countries. It will be the responsibility of each national Committee to assume the leading role in our to establish the first day we celebrate this historical day to be April 15, 2012. We can inform UNESCO as well and let the World learn faster on that decision. We are not saying that we should expect UNESCO or any other organization to validity our decision. Because this will be a decision coming from artists, not politicians. We will only ask UNESCO to spread the news faster and wider to the World.

We have enough time till April 15 to promote the event and to prepare the long day and night! The fact that this date is close to “World Theater Day” can make it a better common action plan package for the Ministries and Municipalities that would be committed to this cause.

On that day all museums should be free of charge worldwide and art books/films/catalogues etc. should have special serious discounts in every sales point. At night, after midnight needless to say that parties all over the World would be launched to prolong the celebrations after hours... Trust us that many lives could and would be change with this decision, if we pass it here in Guadalajara with the contributing ideas of such a respectfull and responsible audience, we will establish today as a milestone in the World History of Art.

With our sincere regards,

Bedri Baykam UNESCO / I.A.A.P. Turkish National Committee UPSD President/ April 4th, 2011

Committee Members : Bahri Genç, Safiye M. Erdurak, Hülya Kupçüoglu, Berna Erkün, Melik Iskender, Murat Havan. Co-signed by world delegates on the days of presentation: 5-6 April 2011, in Guadalajara, Mexico.
In 2012 the first *World Art Day* was celebrated in a large number of countries, in particular in Turkey, Mauritius, Slovakia, Sweden, England, Italy, Spain, Venezuela, Panama, Mexico and Chile. The press coverage was very important considering it was only the first edition: thanks to booklets, new information channels and internet, the spreading of the *World Art Day* (WAD) has been much more than only in the countries having actually participated to the first WAD event.

These 2012 activities can be viewed on the websites: [www.facebook.com/worldartday.iaa](http://www.facebook.com/worldartday.iaa) and [iaaworldartday.com](http://iaaworldartday.com).

### 3- Celebration of the first UNESCO International Arts Education Week.

On April 20th, 2012, Doyun Lee (UNESCO Division of Thematic programs for Diversity, Development and Dialogue) wrote to the concerned NGOs:

“Dear partners NGOs,

.....In order to ensure the success and global scope of the celebration of International Arts Education Week, indeed, all UNESCO partners and networks, as well as culture and education professionals, youth organizations, and intergovernmental organizations are invited to take part in the promotion of the international Arts Education Week. We would be grateful if you could consider contributing to this first celebration by highlighting the work that is being carried out, by informing local communities of this celebration and by organizing regionally or locally-based activities during this week. We would equally appreciate receiving information on planned activities and/or other communication materials that could be distributed during the event at UNESCO Headquarters.

I thank you in advance for your kind cooperation and consideration.

Best regards,
Doyun Lee”

Through this initiative, UNESCO aims at increasing the global awareness on the importance of arts education and reinforcing cooperation with principal actors in the area to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion.

A very interesting analysis of the UNESCO progression in the field of artistic education can be consulted by clicking on the address: [www.europecultureaction.org](http://www.europecultureaction.org)

Following the 2010 Seoul Conference, [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/AQ/CLT/pdf/conv2005_do_Art_10](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/AQ/CLT/pdf/conv2005_do_Art_10) and the work already supported by Korea in the field of education and more particularly Arts
Education by the Korean Arts and Culture Education Service (KACES), this celebration will take place every year during the 4th week of May.

All the information regarding this event can be consulted on the UNESCO website:

http://www.unesco.org/new/culture/themes/creativity/arts-education

This first week was inaugurated by a Symposium at the UNESCO Headquarters, the program of which being available in the following documents.

Program:
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Symposiumprogram

Biographies of the contributors:

Http://ww.unesco.org/new/fr/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/international-arts-education-week-2012/speakers-biography/#

Séoul Agenda:
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/CLT/pdf/Seoul_Agenda

Videos, photos and presentations of this event will be available at the following address:


In September 2011, during the meeting of the IAA Executive Committee in Paris, was voted the project of “Murals” proposed by the President Rosa Maria Burillo.

This project has been already initiated in Mexico, with 10 UNESCO associated schools, as well as with associations dedicated to ‘sensitive’ teenagers groups who live separated from their families.

The goals of this project are:

. Create a Collective Mural on identity, taking care of the environment, or the community, made by children and directed by an IAA National Committee artist member.

. Work with and for childhood developing their creativity, awareness and sensitivity to their communities on topics which are important for their communities, in order to have healthy individuals in the society, far from discrimination and self marginalization.

. This project is looking for alternatives, an art experience, that will be used as a tool for the child to express what he cannot do with words.
With this purpose, IAA associated artists would be invited to participate to this project, to work with children, in their communities, on the mentioned topics.

Each National Committee will decide the number of murals to be done.

The concerned UNESCO department was informed about this IAA project and confirmed its interest, appreciating the mobilization and the engaged efforts by the civil society on this matter.

All National Committees are invited to propose projects in order to help the development of creativity, not only in schools through the official educational programs, but everywhere human beings, young or old, are interested in liberating their creative capacities. The goal is to promote all qualities that can change personal as well as professional life, and, beyond that, make a better functioning of the society.

4- In South Africa 2 programs, “French Seasons” and “Dialogues”, work together with SANAVA

One of the main goals of the UNESCO is to promote and to safeguard the identity and the unique nature of each culture all over the world. The cultural diversity program initiated by the Organization found an echo in some governments.

France has been engaged particularly for several years already in bringing a closer relationship during reciprocal “seasons” with international partners like China, Turkey, Russia, Brazil, within the framework of a program called “French Seasons”.

These 2012/2013 “French Seasons” are devoted to the relations between South Africa and France, their respective presidents working for maintaining peace and security through different political, economical and cultural ways.

In the same spirit, a few years ago, the French National Committee of IAA (CNAPF) created a program called “Dialogues” to create reciprocal visual arts activities between CNFAP and other IAA AIAP National Committees, with events taking place one year in the partner country and the following one in France (or the other way around).

SANAVA (South African National Association for the Visual Arts) is the National Committee of IAA in South Africa and has been the key architect together with CNFAP to build up this Dialogues program and include it within the French Seasons program.

As a result of all these common efforts and goodwill, from July 26th to August 15th, the Gallery of the Association of Arts, in Pretoria, will welcome works of 17 French artists, and, in a similar way, works of South African artists will be exhibited in Paris in 2013.
In parallel with the exhibition itself in Pretoria, a set of conferences will take place on matters concerning the artists, with comparison of references from both countries, South Africa and France.

Moreover SANAVA is inviting 3 French exhibiting artists to visit South Africa and discover the South African visual arts environment. Next year, CNFAP will invite similarly 3 South African artists to dialogue with their French counterparts.

Learn more by consulting the press release:

CNAP – SANAVA Dialogues Program
France – South Africa Seasons 2012 & 2013
FRENCH PAINTERS EXHIBITION
at the MACKIE STREET GALLERY

From July 27th till August 15th, 2012, seventeen French Artists are exhibiting in Pretoria as part of the French Season in South Africa and along the same way, in 2013, South African artists will exhibit in Paris as part of the South African Season in France.

The choice of the participating French artists is done by the Conseil National Français des Arts Plastiques (CNFAP) and similarly the South African Visual Arts National Association (SAVANA) will perform the choice of the South African artists.

Both national organisations, CNFAP et SAVANA, are members of the International Association of Art (IAA), founded in 1954 together with UNESCO in order to bring a mutual assistance in the Visual Arts domain.

IAA became a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), partner of UNESCO, which comprises today 94 National Committees over the world.

The objectives of the IAA Association are to stimulate international cooperation among the artists of all countries to improve the economic and social position of artists at the national and international levels and to defend their material and moral rights.

For that purpose, IAA is allowing and facilitating exchanges of artists and ideas in the domain of visual arts through the organisation of meetings, conferences and exhibitions.

Reciprocal exhibitions, as the ones of 2012 in Pretoria and then of 2013 in Paris, are precisely the goal of the « DIALOGUES » program, created and developed by CNFAP several years ago,
to allow diversified artists, all contemporary but in various domains from abstract to figurative, in offering a representative panorama of major trends and emerging personalities of visual arts in France and in the world.

The program operates in all kinds of visual arts: painting, sculpture as well as engraving and other forms of creative work in the visual arts. As a matter of fact, the DIALOGUES program is favoring confrontation and dialogue between artists and countries through the works of art.

As part of the talks concerning the artist’s statute, Anne Pourny will deliver a speech on Saturday July 28th about the “Resale Right as practiced in France”.

The 17 participating French artists, which will have 2 artworks each for most of them, are all members of CNFAP and a large number of them are regularly exposed by galleries in France and abroad, or in International shows and Salons.

Their names are: Arcq, Azoulay-Villier, Baroni, Benzi-Ania, Belin, Crozat-Coulmont, Engelmarie, Guerchet-Jeanin, Gerodez, Kellestom, Le Bricquir, Lilvartowski, Morel, Pourny, Nariyoshi, Troubat et Verdeille.

The exposed artworks are expressing various esthetic sensibilities but all are giving evidence, by their diversity, of the artist’s commitment and consciousness that art bears a social link between institutions, artists and the public.

Three French artists will attend the opening ceremony of July 27th in Pretoria: Arcq, Engemarie et Pourny. Pictures of their works follow:
ARCO: « Rue des Regardés »

ENGELMARIE: « Dialogue 2 »

POURNY: « Prélude Végétal XXXIX »

CNFAP – 11, rue Berryer 75008 Paris France
The South African National Association for the Visual Arts (SANAVA) is also organizing a series of 3 exhibitions with Chinese artists, going from traditional to contemporary art: ‘Selected Chinese prints of the 20th Century’ (15 May – 16 November 2012), ‘Paper cutting from Shaaxi of China’ (17 May – 22 September), ‘A collection of Contemporary Chinese students’ (1 June – 30 June). Those first two shows are running exhibitions and will take place in several towns in South Africa, welcomed by the SANAVA branches, galleries, and universities. Photos of the selections, presentations and exhibition addresses and dates can be seen on the SANAVA website: www.sanava.co.za/projects

4. Creation of 2 Newsletters

IAA Europe inaugurated last June 1st its first IAA European Newsletter on its website: www.iaa.eur.eu for gathering and presenting the most important and interesting events initiated in the IAA European region. The European Newsletter will be edited every two months.

The IAA World Newsletter will be published in rotation and will specialize on the IAA related events throughout the world.

All information and suggestions are welcome to make this Newsletter becoming very quickly a useful and easy communication tool for the artists of the whole world. It should particularly help in working out initiatives made and taken by IAA National Committees in participating to UNESCO programs for visual arts, or in finding opportunities to build up international programs such as what was achieved between South Africa and France.