

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NUMBER 8

Dear National Committee members from the world, dear world IAA artists,

I wish to all of you, a great new art season with this September, that has ended all our summer peacefulness in the northern hemisphere, while I wish the most beautiful spring days to our friends in the southern hemisphere.

THE AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

You have all received the Statutes amendments few days ago. I would like you to know that these new clauses for the statutes are the results of very long works and discussions over the table and online. We aimed to open our doors and hearts to more persons from the art world. It always had felt bad that we couldn't take as member artists that didn't have National Committees in their countries. Writing them those refusal letters was so disappointing for them as well as for us that we decided to make a move in the statutes.

The second change also has come for two separate reasons. One of them was because we also have many non-artist historians, museum people, and or curators who wanted to become members of IAA. We wanted to find a way to include them without changing the fact that IAA would stay only as an artist association, always run and directed by professional artists. The second reason is that in several NCs around the world, we have already member friends that are not directly 'professional artists'. So we wanted to legalize them. I guess we have done a good job for this middle of the way arrangements. Let's hope that it will contribute to the emancipation of the international friendships in dialogues all over the world, which will end up in growing synergy among all of us on the larger scale.

THE IAA HAS TO STAY STRONG AND IN SOLIDARITY

Why do we need to be stronger and more numerous around the world? Why must we stay in touch with so many colleagues from around the world who are even in different positions, working in their studios, or in museums or in universities? Because, as you all know again very well, our world has been going towards very wrong directions may it be politically in regards of democracy and freedom of speech or may it be in regards to ecology and the protection of nature with its forests and oceans and wildlife. It is unbelievable that the United States under Trump has chosen to make abstraction of the concept of protection of nature. Even our friends who live in developed European nations should know that there are more threats then just wild terrorism and we should all be aware so that we don't take anything for granted even in these harder days that we are living in.

WORLD ART DAY

World Art Day (WAD) has been celebrated again in many countries around the world. One way to make sure that next year each of us will do a better job is to start the preparations much ahead of time, is to take appointments from different art centers, museums, and especially municipalities in order to take them into this game of art celebration mingled with a worthy public relation for them. Creating the atmosphere that will blend all art forms and create new friendships, institutionally as well as individually, will also provoke more visibility, more press relations, more projects... The reason I am telling you all these things much ahead of April 2018, is to make sure that you will not be late for any project proposal to nobody, doesn't matter small or big...

THE IAA CARD SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO NON-MEMBERS

Dear friends from every NC and especially all NC presidents, there is one more thing that I will kindly ask all of you to comply with. Please do not let anybody, who is not a member of IAA, get the IAA card through our/your association. Not only it's illegal and unfair for all the others, but also it's illogical and even absurd. Somebody who is not a professional of the art scene, who is not a

member of IAA, has nothing to do with the IAA card. Unfortunately there has been some obvious misunderstandings that made at some countries, we have seen and heard, gave out many cards to non-members or to members that only of National Associations without the IAA extension. This would create such a big confusion within the main body of IAA that we don't want to think about. So please from now on make sure that every person you give an IAA card, with the mention 'official partner of UNESCO' is a member professional artist, a person worth in the arts scene. Please don't undersign such a mistake that would be also illegal towards IAA and towards UNESCO as well.

THE LAST, BUT NOT THE LEAST!

Dear NCs and dear artist friends... I wish I did not have to tell you that - but I must -you have to remember that the IAA has been existing for almost 70 years only through the contributions of National Committees from around the world. Unfortunately in the last years, mostly European National Committees have been paying their fees regularly whereas we have had problems getting the yearly payments of several of our National Committees from Latin America, Africa, Arab countries and so on... Please understand that it's extremely important that these fees should be paid regularly by every NC, otherwise we would be unfair to our friends who pay their fees. On top of that, IAA World would be facing serious financial problems. I am sure, you don't want that!

ALSO... Dear friends,

In order for all the NCs to be able to pay their yearly fee to the headquarters of IAA, you must remember that your NCs, can only pay their fees if you keep paying your yearly fee to your own National Committee as an artist. You see it's very simple: If throughout the year you put aside, just tiny percentages of your pocket money or salary aside, in order to pay your fee to your National Committee, then things will happen more easily. If everybody proceeds like this, then it's really not much heavy for your monthly budget, but if you don't pay your fees yearly, it accumulates and anything that accumulates becomes a big burden. Where in Turkey, we have developed a system where artists can pay their fees to the National Committee by dividing their accumulated debt in four or five installments through the bank and their credit card. Then no matter what is the accumulated amount of debts, the wheel will still be rolling. We believe it's a good solution. Also one more thing: we recommend to make arrangements and small contracts with various businesses that would give 5% or 10% discounts or even 3% discount to the card holders of IAA. That would also accelerate many payments and would generate new memberships. Trust me that this 'last but not least' paragraph was added because we want to preserve you as an artist, as a National Committee, as a friend in the body of a IAA.

That's all for now dear friends, please let's accelerate the dialogues and flux of information among each other,

Look forward to hear from each of you,

All my best,

Bedri Baykam

World President

IAA -Official partner of UNESCO