

WHAT IS THE FATE OF PUBLIC ART?

PROGRAM

IN CELEBRATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
WORLD DAY FOR
CULTURAL DIVERSITY,
FOR DIALOGUE
AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IN CERGY-PONTOISE
AND AT UNESCO
HEADQUARTERS, PARIS

19-20
MAI
2011



Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture



Centre du
patrimoine
mondial

UNESCO
125 AV. DE SUFFREN 75007 PARIS
PARC SAINT-CHRISTOPHE 95000 CERGY-PONTOISE



CERGY-
PONTOISE
l'agglomération

THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2011
PARC SAINT-CHRISTOPHE
CERGY-PONTOISE

10:00-10:30 AM
10:30-11:00 AM

- **REGISTRATION AT PARC SAINT-CHRISTOPHE, CERGY-PONTOISE**
- **OPENING**

Francesco Bandarin: **Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO**
Dominique Lefebvre: **President of the Communauté d'agglomération de Cergy-Pontoise**

11:00 AM-12:30 PM

- **PURPOSE AND PERCEPTION OF PUBLIC ART**

In a world where the majority of the population is now urbanized, the shape of the space shared by the citizens is not only defined by buildings, infrastructure and recreation facilities, but also by the everyday presence of art. Works of art are indispensable beacons on the cities' squares and streets, enhancing their civic meaning, and an essential hinge between the contemporary world and the shared memories of tragic episodes or moments of elation. From the most figurative to the most conceptual, they bring to an audience largely indifferent to museums and exhibitions the excitement – and the mystery of artistic creation.

Moderator: Paul Ardenne (University of Amiens, Amiens), France

François Barré: **President, Centre d'architecture Arc-en-Rêve, Bordeaux, France**

N'Goné Fall: **Art curator, Dakar & Paris, Senegal & France / Henrietta Moore: William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, Director, Culture and Globalisation Programme, Centre for the Study of Global Governance, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom / Otto Piene: Artist**

12:30-2:00 PM

- **LUNCH AT PARC SAINT-CHRISTOPHE, CERGY-PONTOISE**

Book Launch: "The Axe majeur Saga, Dani Karavan at Cergy-Pontoise."
By Claude Mollard, co-edited by Les Editions Beaux-Arts (publishing house) and by the town of Cergy-Pontoise

2:00-3:30 PM

- **THE CREATION OF URBAN SPACE**

The troubled relationship of art and architecture is constantly reconfigured in urban space. The longing for a "synthesis of the arts", for a city conceived as a vast Wagnerian Gesamtkunstwerk, appears now as an illusion. The conversation between architecture and art has been reconfigured by artists aware of architectural issues and by architects having clear views about the intellectual and artistic agency of their own work. In this transformed context, built objects become powerful indices of civic identity.

Moderator: Jean Louis Cohen / Sheldon H. Solow Professor of History of Architecture, New York University, New York City, United States of America

Elizabeth Auclair: **Maître de conférence, Professor of Cultural Development and Heritage Enrichment, University of Cergy-Pontoise, Cergy-Pontoise, France**

Peter Eisenman: **Architect, Eisenman Architects, New York, United States of America**

Charles Gwathmey Professor in Practice, Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, United States of America / Antoine Grumbach: **Architect, Professor, École d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville, Paris, France / Rem Koolhaas: Architect, OMA-AMO, Rotterdam, Netherlands**

3:30-4:00 PM

- **COFFEE BREAK**

4:00-5:30 PM

- **ROUND TABLE: THE CREATION OF URBAN SPACE***

Moderator: Jean Louis Cohen, Sheldon H. Solow Professor of History of Architecture, New York University, New York City, United States of America

Francesco Bandarin: **Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO**

Monica Bonvicini: **Artist / Yona Friedman: Architect, Paris, France**

* The speakers from the previous session (2-3:30 pm) will join this round table

5:30-7:00 PM

- **GUIDED TOUR OF THE AXE MAJEUR WITH DANI KARAVAN, UNESCO ARTIST FOR PEACE**



FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2011
UNESCO – ROOM II

9:00-9:30 AM
9:30-10:15 AM

- **REGISTRATION AT UNESCO HOUSE**
- **OPENING**

Irina Bokova: **Director-General, UNESCO**
Frédéric Mitterrand: **Minister of Culture and Communication, France**

10:15-11:45 AM

- **THE GENESIS OF A WORK OF PUBLIC ART**

Works of public arts are often the result of long decision-making processes, in which elected officials, critics and civic activists mingle. Paradoxically, these productions of art proposed to the perception of the greater number, and installed in the most conspicuous places of the cities, cannot be commissioned through a fully democratic interaction. The patrons of public art, while aware of the prevailing taste among the citizens, have to resort to what theater director Antoine Vitez once called "Elitism for the masses."

Moderator: Claude Mollard, **Former délégué aux Arts plastiques, Ministry of Culture, France**
Daniel Buren: **Artist / Vivien Lovell:** **Founder-Director, Modus Operandi Art Consultants, London, United Kingdom / Jennifer McGregor,** **Director of Arts & Senior Curator, Wave Hill, New York, United States of America / Hiroko Shimizu:** **Special Researcher, Urban Research Plaza, Osaka City University and Art Director, Japan**

11:45 AM-12:00 PM
12:00-1:30 PM

- **COFFEE BREAK**
- **PUBLIC ART, IDENTITY AND OWNERSHIP**

Once left out in the open, the works of public art become part of the everyday practice of the population and escape the control of both their patrons and their authors. Beyond their programmed, preconceived meaning, they are also configured by their unexpected use as markers in the itineraries of thousands of people or as meeting points. Apparently aggressive behavior such as graphing or tagging can also symbolize a form of appropriation, of affection for these highly intellectualized works.

Moderator: Ariella Masbouni, **Architecte urbaniste en chef de l'Etat, chargée de la mission Projet urbain, Ministère des transports, de l'équipement, du tourisme et de la mer, France**
Gianmaria Ajani & Alessandra Donati: **Dean of the Law School, University of Turin, Turin, Italy, University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy / Manal Ataya:** **Director General, Sharjah Museums Department, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates / Dani Karavan:** **UNESCO Artist for Peace / Caroline de Saint Pierre:** **Maître-assistant, École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris Malaquais, Paris, France**

1H30-3H00 PM
3:00-4:30 PM

- **LUNCH BREAK**
- **FROM EPHEMERAL TO ETERNAL:**
SUSTAINABILITY OF PUBLIC ART IN AN URBAN POLICY CONTEXT

Public art has often been generated by short-lived moments in the life of cities, determined by great events – military, civic, or festive. Once they have become permanent, and with the passing of time, their meaning becomes more complex, for instance when a new historical value is added to their initial commemorative value, to borrow the terms of Art historian Alois Riegl. Insuring their long-term survival as their initial meaning becomes obsolete is probably a greater challenge than maintaining their physical integrity in the corrosive environment of the city.

Moderator: Caroline Cros, **Curator, Délégation aux Arts Plastiques, Ministry of Culture, France / Christoph Brockhaus:** **Art Curator, Duisburg, Germany**
Julie Guiyot-Corteville: **Conservateur en chef du patrimoine, Directeur of Musée français de la Photographie, Bièvres, France / Jaime Lerner:** **Architect, Instituto Jaime Lerner, Curitiba, Brazil**

Author and artist conversation

Walter Santagata (**University of Turin and Director, Silvia Santagata Research Centre on the Economics of Culture, Turin, Italy**) & Michelangelo Pistoletto (**Artist; Founder-Director, Città dell'Arte, Biella, Italy**)

5:00-5:30 PM

- **CLOSING SPEECH**

Francesco Bandarin: **Sous-Directeur général pour la culture, UNESCO**

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