



| International Association |
| of Art Critics |

**Board Meeting
20 May 2021**

Secretary-General's Report

Following 2020, the first months of 2021 have sadly kept us subjected to the general tension produced by the global health crisis. This has led us to experiment, and now refine new ways of working and communicating with all the national sections and AICA members. Accordingly, the different levels of our association's governance (the Committees, the Office, and various working groups) have remained rather active. Thus, although unfortunate, this context hasn't stopped us from implementing real work dynamic and exchanges, while some of these new ways have allowed for an even closer relationship with our different representatives, both internally and externally.

The usual operations regarding our finances, subscriptions, elections, board meetings, general assembly, office administration, and the preparation of our next congress (all of which punctuate the life of our association) were successfully completed. After few trials and errors, new modalities of work were thus implemented and some of them will, without a doubt, positively survive the health crisis.

Central Office

Regarding the administration of our Office, I can only repeat what I wrote in my previous report: 'Office duties were first entirely realised from home, before alternating teleworking and office hours, and finally working from home again. This has required a capacity of adaptation and a knowledge of new tools, which Sonia Recasens has handled in a remarkable way: no significant interruption has happened during these otherwise unprecedented months.' I further noted then: 'The amount of work, which is already usually important, has increased though – a consequence of both the necessary adaptation and solicitations, which have been more numerous due to the uncertainties of the time. The weakness of our means has revealed itself even more clearly.' This is still true.

Elections

2020 has seen the renewal of a large number of functions across our association's different agencies via many elections: Presidency, Vice-Presidency, International Board Members, etc. All took place in a satisfactory way, both smoothly and transparently.

Following the resignation of the former Chair of the Censorship Committee, and different disagreements related to its administration, we finally reached a satisfying outcome while organising the election of a new Chair, won by Rafael Cardoso. This took place during the General Assembly, which ultimately rules all our association's decisions.



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Agencies

Besides the many meetings of the Office and Committees that took place throughout the year, a Board Meeting was organised on 22 May 2020, an extraordinary general assembly on 21 November 2020, and an ordinary one on 14 December 2020. These three events have each gathered a significant number of participants (60 to 80 persons).

Congress

In accordance with the decisions taken at the last General Assembly, our next Congress will take place in Istanbul from 3 to 5 November 2021. Its theme is *Intellectual Aftermath*.

The possibility of a hybrid organisation (physical and virtual) is currently being discussed.

UNESCO

As mentioned during our last Board Meeting, the working group coordinated by Ramon Tio Bellido at our President's request formalised and submitted an application for financial support within the UNESCO Participation Programme. This project, titled ***Women in the Promotion of Art and Culture in some African contexts***, was selected and received quite a significant financial aid.

I would like to congratulate the people who carried it out: namely, Ramon Tio Bellido, Nadia Sabri (President of AICA-Morocco), and Simone Guirandou (President of AICA-Ivory Coast).

Italy

After many meetings and discussions, Henry Meyric Hugues and Alfredo Cramerotti were appointed as mediators during our previous General Assembly so that the section AICA-Italy could finally see the light of day again. In close relationship with the Electoral and Membership Committee, an electoral procedure was scrupulously implemented (all the Italian critics up to date with their subscriptions were contacted, details and timing of the electoral process issued, as well as a call for applications for the election). I would like to thank everybody involved here.

Gabriele Romeo, whom we congratulate, was elected President of the new Italian section with absolute majority (he received 81% of the votes out of a 45,71 % participation).

The following steps shall be taken: constitution of a board, elaboration and submission of new statutes, presentation of the ensemble for discussion at our next Board Meeting and General Assembly.



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NB: all the Italian members currently enrolled in the Open Section will automatically integrate the new Italian one.

Statutes

Electronic vote: during our last General Assembly, we debated and agreed on introducing in our statutes the possibility of online voting for all the circumstances that would require it. In order to avoid that this change forces us to discuss and rewrite too many articles in our statutes and regulations (which would take several months), we have made this more general and flexible proposal:

'Article 15.0: When circumstances require it, all the electoral procedures governing the life of the association can be made online, under an electronic form. All the articles in the statutes and regulations pertaining to elections are likely to be concerned by this new kind of voting, which will be organised according to applicable laws in this regard, at the Office's request.'

Thank you.

Paris (France), 14 April 2021

Marc Partouche
Secretary-General
AICA International