

Press Release

IKT Congress 2012 a great success

The annual International Curators Congress took place this year in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

The International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art welcomed more than 90 participants to its annual congress, held this year in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. It was the first congress to be organised during the presidency of Friedemann Malsch, Director of the Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein; Herr Malsch has been president of the association for one year.

The IKT is an international professional association of free-lance and institutional curators. It was established over 40 years ago and counts among its members, among others, the pioneering curators Harald Szeeman (†), Jean-Christophe Ammann, Christoph Vitali, Nicolaus Schafhausen and Saskia Bos. In 2007 the association's annual meeting took place in Liechtenstein and a year ago it elected Friedemann Malsch as its president. The Israeli curator Danna Heller, who is also a member of the association, organised this year's congress.

Over 90 IKT members from Europe and overseas met from 27 to 30 April 2012 in Tel Aviv, among other things to visit outstanding art institutions in the city and its surroundings as well as in Jerusalem. Among the items on the agenda were the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, whose new wing was opened in November 2011, the Museum in the kibbutz in Ein Harod and the Herzeliya Museum of Contemporary Art. The Museum on the Seam in Jerusalem and the Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv were also visited.

The IKT symposium, under the heading "Curating the New Politics", was held in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. The additional 100 people who joined the IKT members in the auditorium testified to the large local response. Professor Ute Meta Bauer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, the Cuban artist Tania Bruguera, Eyal Danon, Director of the Israeli Centre for Digital Art, Holon and Professor Jonathan Harris of the University of Southampton spoke on the topic of political changes and their impact on the content of exhibition projects and the profession of curator. The success of the annual congress could also be seen in the curiosity of the members and their abiding interest: the post-congress programme which took place on 1 May 2012, at the Israeli Centre for Digital Art, Holon, among other venues, attracted 60 association members. So both local curators and the visiting IKT members took the time to discuss cultural and socio-political topics and exchange ideas about their profession.

Photo caption (group photo of some of the congress participants):

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