

# PANORAMA

Newsletter **05**  
October 2006

This **IPC Newsletter** looks back on the **14<sup>th</sup> International Panorama Conference 'The Quest for Illusion'** at the **Mesdag Panorama** in The Hague, Netherlands, on September 7-10, 2006. It was organized by the Mesdag managing director Marijnke de Jong, assisted by Evelyn Onnes and Maria Arts.

The post-conference tour to Belgium on September 10 and 11 included visits to the **FotoMuseum, Antwerp** (with special focus on the 'Keizerspanorama', an automated stereoscopic device seating 25, dating from 1905), the almost forgotten 19<sup>th</sup> century **Panorama-rotunda** at Boul. Maurice Lemonnier 8 in the centre of Brussels (now used as a parking garage: *Panorama Parking*) and a very comprehensive reception and explanation at the **Waterloo Battle** panorama at Braine-l'Alleud.

The **14<sup>th</sup> IPC Conference** in The Hague was very successful, with more than 85 participants from all over the world. The presentations were on a high scientific and creative level. A publication is being prepared by Evelyn Onnes. More information: [onnes@euronet.nl](mailto:onnes@euronet.nl).

**Presentations in The Hague included:**  
Evelyn Onnes, *Introduction to the theme of the conference.*

Frans Verstraten, *3D from (2 times) 2D.*

Petran Kockelkoren, *The panorama as a centring machine.*

Jeremy Diggie, *The camera obscura of Johannes Vermeer.*

Mel Woods & Lei Cox, *The camera obscura project in Scotland.*

Silvia Bordini, *Panorama and video. Some recent interpretations.*

Erkki Huhtamo, *"A whirling panorama of visions was filling his brain": The Moving Panorama & the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Imagination.*

Machiko Kusahara, *Peeping into Panorama: from the End of Panorama to Contemporary Media Art in Japan.*

Lucas Piccolin (represented by Marcel Just), *History of the 360° film systems – the Swissorama.*

Tom van Vliet, *World Wide: Panorama 360 degrees.*

Mimi Colligan, *Panoramas/Cycloramas in early 20<sup>th</sup> century New Zealand.*

Ester Wouthuysen, *The Amsterdam panorama of De Kruyf of 1817.*

Max Dodel, *The connection Amsterdam – Munich.*

Mario Cesar Coelho, *Victor Meirelles: Painter of Lost Panoramas.*

Stefaan Grieten, *Panoramas and dioramas in Antwerp.*

Lucas Smits van Waesberghe, *Re-animation of the panorama 'Battle of the Yzer'.*

Marcel Just, *Optical, mechanical and photographic and cinematographical panorama patents.*

Aldo Hoeben, *Panorama Photography, a new perspective on panoramas.*

Daniel Libens, *Panorama Gent (Ghent).*

Rajorshi Ghosh, *Panoramic Desire: The Light Murals of Chandannagar, India.*

Sanford Wurmfeld, *E-Cyclorama.*

The conference participants were warmly welcomed by Mr. Wim Deetman, the Mayor of The Hague, at a reception held in the Old Town Hall, dating from 1565. This hall is one of the heritage buildings of The Hague as seat of the Dutch government and international city of peace, justice and security. The reception also honoured the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mesdag Panorama. Marking the end of the conference, Lili van Ginneken, former director of STROOM, received the participants at *The Celestial Vault* of James Turrell, situated in the Kijkduin sand dunes of The Hague.

The IPC Board wishes to thank everyone involved, including Rob van den Braak and André van Lier, who put themselves in charge of the internationally illustrated 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication and *The Panorama Phenomenon* exposition. This exposition runs through 26 November 2006 in Panorama Mesdag and is available to travel to other panorama related spaces. Info Rob van den Braak: [rvd.braak@wxs.nl](mailto:rvd.braak@wxs.nl).

During the meeting of the **IPC Executive Board** on September 7<sup>th</sup> decisions were reaffirmed to formalise the international panorama cooperation and also to contact ICOM on a future relation between IPC and ICOM. More news on these actions will follow in the next Newsletter.

## **'New Perspectives on the Panorama'**

Morna O'Neill wants to let you know about a forthcoming event at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT (USA) on March 30 and 31, 2007. The program will link up with the issues discussed at the conference in The Hague.

Drawing on **provocative new work** on panoramas, this conference will rethink the orthodoxies of traditional 360-degree panorama paintings and broader notions of the panoramic through interdisciplinary conversation between scholars and artists working in a wide range of fields, including cultural geography, art history, literary studies, architecture, theatre studies, film, photography, and the fine arts.

The aesthetics of 360-degree painting will be explored from its inception in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to its resurgence in contemporary practice, its relationship to architecture and film, and social and political contexts.

## **IPC International Panorama Council**

[www.panoramapainting.com](http://www.panoramapainting.com)

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The program includes discussion sessions with curators and artists that draw upon the panorama-related material at the Yale Center for British Art and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. The keynote lecture will be given by renowned British filmmaker Patrick Keiller, whose *'Robinson in Space'* will be screened in 35mm.

The **program** includes Denise Oleksijczuk (School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University, B.C.), Gretchen Bender (Univ. of Pittsburgh), Andreas Luescher (Bowling Green State University), Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby (University of California-Berkeley), Tom Gunning (University of Chicago), and a conversation with London-based painter Timothy Hyman on 'A Space for the Self', led by Richard Maxwell (Yale University).

The symposium is free and open to IPC members, but advance registration is required. For more information and registration, please email attn. Morna O'Neill at [ycba.research@yale.edu](mailto:ycba.research@yale.edu).

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### **Bourbaki Panorama 1881-2006**

2006 has been a memorable year for panoramas. Of the many panoramas that were opened in 1881 two have survived. On September 22 to 24, a few weeks after the Mesdag Panorama, the **Bourbaki Panorama at Lucerne, Switzerland** also celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Painted in Geneva in 1881 it moved to Lucerne in 1889. Because the panorama painting depicts the flight and disarmament of a part of the French army under the command of Bourbaki to neutral Switzerland, an incident in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the theme of the anniversary was a discussion on the humanitarian tradition of this Alpine country. The presentation of a new film about Bourbaki Panorama, a Soirée Française on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and a oriental buffet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> concluded the festivities.

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### **150 years' birthday of Franz Roubaud**

Museum-panorama *The Borodino Battle* in Moscow celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of its creator, Franz A. Roubaud (1856-1928), with a conference on 15-17 June 2006. The symposium, in which a dozen IPC members took part, preceded the opening of the exhibition ... *Regard me Russian artist* in the museum and the presentation of the exhibition catalogue. Roubaud's granddaughter Sylvia Roubaud, of Munich, Germany, was guest of honour of the panorama director Irina A. Nikolaeva and other officials and staff members. Part of the conference was also a visit to the Borodino 1812 battlefield west of Moscow, where site monuments and the Borodino Museum were visited. The museum explains the course of the battle and includes some dioramas.

Six true-to-life **dioramas** of the *Great Patriotic War* of 1941-1945 in the Central Museum with that name in Moscow were also part of the official program. Next to that, the international panorama community was received very hospitably in Moscow and the panorama museum. The original 115x15 m Borodino canvass was painted in Munich before it went on display in a wooden pavilion at Chistoprudny Boulevard in Moscow from 1912-1918. Since 1962 it is on show in a spacious panorama building on one of Moscow's main arteries, Kutuzovsky Prospekt.

Franz A. Roubaud ('Rubo' in Russian) also painted the original *Defence of Sevastopol* panorama (1904) of Sevastopol, Ukraine, where IPC members joined in the 2004 commemoration.

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Until December 31st 2007 **Rome CCCXII** will be on display, the huge panorama created by Yadegar Asisi in the 'Panometer' in Leipzig, Germany. Information available: [www.asisi-factory.de](http://www.asisi-factory.de).

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The Bunker Hill Museum Restoration Committee of the Charlestown Historical Society considers a project for a painted 28-foot-diameter reproduction of the original **cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill** at Charlestown, MA.

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### **New publications on panoramas**

- *The Panorama Phenomenon. The World round!*, The Hague 2006 / *Het Fenomeen Panorama. De wereld rond!*, Den Haag 2006, published in English and in Dutch on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Panorama Mesdag (to be ordered from [rvd.braak@wxs.nl](mailto:rvd.braak@wxs.nl), ISBN 90-72084-35-7 in English and 90-72084-34-9 in Dutch).

- ... *Regard me Russian Artist*, catalogue of the exhibition to the 150<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Franz A. Roubaud, in English and Russian, SOREC-polygraphy, Moscow 2006, ISBN 5-86492-053-3.

- Grieten, Stefaan en Evelien Verniers: *Kijkparadijzen voor het volk. Panorama's en diorama's in Antwerpen*, Erfgoedgids van het Provinciebestuur Antwerpen 2005, ISBN 90-7609-962-6.

- Hasselt, Liesbeth van: *Schilderen of Schieten? De impact van de Wereldoorlogen op het leven en het werk van Alfred Bastien (1873-1955)*, Leuven 2006 (unpublished, to be ordered from the author [liesbethie@hotmail.com](mailto:liesbethie@hotmail.com)).

- Husty, Peter, *Portrait einer Kleinstadt*, in: *Scherben bringen Glück*. Festschrift für Fritz Moosleitner, Salzburg 2005, p.52-57.

- Kockelkoren, Petran: *Technology: art, fairground and theatre*, NAI Publishers, Rotterdam, ISBN 90-5662-235-8.

- Quinn, Stephen Christopher: *Windows On Nature. The Great Habitat Dioramas of the American Museum of Natural History*, publ. by Abrams, New York 2006.

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To our deep regret, we have to inform you of the passing of our member **Gustav A. Berger** from New York, USA. He died on March 5, 2006.

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We try to keep up to date our **list of existing panoramas of the world**. Please check our website [www.panoramapainting.com](http://www.panoramapainting.com) (-> worldwide) to see whether your panorama is listed correctly and whether you know of other panoramas that should be added to the list.

**You're invited to send information on panorama activities or publications to the Secretary** [konservator@bourbakipanorama.ch](mailto:konservator@bourbakipanorama.ch)