

16th International Panorama Conference: 1–3 September 2007 in the UK

The Executive Board of the IPC is happy to announce our 16th Conference. It will take place in close cooperation with our hosts, INNOVATE Centre for Creative Industries and the University of Plymouth. The theme will be: *Panoramas in the Virtual World, the exploration of old techniques and new technologies in panorama creation and exhibition*. The conference will take place at the Sherwood Centre in the center of Plymouth, in the South-West of England. A Post Conference Tour will visit (A) the South of England 4–7 September and (B) Edinburgh 7–9 September. **The IPC Executive Board cordially invites you to participate.**

For details on the program of the conference, the post conference tour, travel & accommodations information, fee and registration please visit from May 2nd the website
www.innovatecentre.co.uk/other/16thIPC.asp.

Looking back on the 15th IPC: *New Perspectives on the Panorama*

It has been a great pleasure to have had our 15th IPC Conference in conjunction with the YCBA Conference on *New Perspectives on the Panorama*. Altogether more than 120 panorama and early cinema enthusiasts met in the charming center of the university town of New Haven, Connecticut, 110 km North of New York City. Everybody at the Yale Center for British Art, hosting the conference, has been alert and helpful, so that the twenty or more representatives of the world wide IPC really felt pampered in this neat New England town. The Center and its library is a real knowledge center for panoramas both in the States and in Europe. It was funded by Paul Mellon, and is located in a magnificent Louis Kahn building, together with its specialized museum on British Art. View:
www.yale.edu/ycba.

The Executive Board of the IPC expresses its gratitude for the opportunity to link up both programs. Special thanks go to our members Morna O'Neill (Post doctorate Research Associate at YCBA) and Scott Wilcox (Curator of Prints and Drawings, YCBA), his colleague Elisabeth Fairman (Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts), YCBA President Amy Meyers, Tim Barringer, Richard Maxwell, and Serena Guerette who helped out in lots of practical matters. The IPC members enjoyed their stay, meeting with so many panorama researchers and students from Connecticut, Maine, New York and Rhode Island, focusing on panorama and film related issues in history and in modern times. The organizing team sends out thanks to everyone who participated: "We were delighted to welcome the IPC members, and we felt that they contributed a great deal to the conference program."

This program was too extensive to cover adequately in this short retrospect. The proceedings replicated almost completely the program published in our *IPC Newsletter 06* (the first of two December 2006 issues). There were more than twenty speakers, together they presented very interesting content, including:

* The amazing reconfiguring of the history of the French First World War panorama *Panthéon de la Guerre*, by Mark Levitch. The panorama, created in Paris as an artist-generated propaganda project while the Great War raged, was celebrated there until 1927. It was subsequently promoted as a circus-like spectacle on a postwar tour of the US, having been 'updated' to appeal to Americans' view of the conflict. Eventually procured for Kansas City's Liberty Memorial in 1956, less than 7% of the work was reconfigured into a small U.S.-centric mural. (Re: Levitch's *Panthéon de la Guerre*, as announced in *IPC Newsletter 06*);

* The way Gretchen Bender led the audience to view Gaertner's *Panorama of Berlin* in great detail and social order. She revealed yet other unnoticed but meaningful details in almost every sentence of her lecture;

* David Olin's ongoing gigantic cyclorama conservation work on *The Battle of Gettysburg*, on which he also lectured during the 12th IPC Conference in New York, including our 2004 visit to the Olin Conservation premises. IPC and YCBA are in touch on how to present the conference results. In particular, since no one was able to attend to all the breakout sessions that paralleled each other, it is a challenge to collect and publish the results, whether in print, on the internet, or on demand. In the meantime morna.oneill@yale.edu will forward possible questions to the speakers during the YCBA conference.

10 years meditation in a 'panorama'

On the occasion of the 15th IPC/YCBA Conference an exhibit was on view in the entrance hall of the YCBA British Art Museum. On a 'panorama' in oil on eleven stretched canvasses *The Inhabited Space* depicts a life story of Helen Wilks, a London based painter, who is also Head of Humanities at the City & Guilds of London Art School. She started the panoramic cycle of paintings in 1996 as a meditation on Velázquez's *Las Meninas*, the initial impulse being to try and make a painting about the kind of spaces (physical and metaphysical) that every person forms inside their head. This run of overall 11 canvasses, 6 x 53 feet (1.85 x 16.30 m), finished in 2006,

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www.panoramapainting.com

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gradually evolved into a sort of 360° degree panorama of an entire world: a fusion of places the artist has lived/worked in over the last ten years in London, Mallorca and Connecticut. "By allowing my meditation to grow from Velázquez's emptied room into a 360° panorama, the viewer becomes placed inside the image and, I suppose, effectively inside a female painter's world," Helen Wilks stated, although the painting was painted on traditional rectangular canvasses. The canvasses were hung on two walls in the YCBA entrance hall as if they were created for this specific 90° angled wall space. More information: www.helenwilks.com.

Unveiling *Effulgence of the North* in LA

The grand unveiling date for the new Arctic Panorama *Effulgence of the North* at The Velaslavasay Panorama in Los Angeles is officially planned for July 21st, 2007. The theme of the gala opening celebration will be 'Alpine-Arctic-Oktoberfest-in-July', in the Arctic Year 2007. This event will feature an illustrated presentation by author, media archivist, and UCLA Professor Erkki Huhtamo, focusing on Albert Smith's *Ascent of Mont Blanc*, successful moving panorama which was performed at London's Egyptian Hall no less than 2000 times in the 1850s. Furthering the evening's alpine atmosphere, there will be entertainment showcasing the yodeling talents of Tony Hartenstein, famed Swiss performer at the New York World's Fair of 1939, and special guest Herr Moritz Fehr, who will lead the visitors in rounds of traditional German stein-hoisting songs. The Velaslavasay Panorama invites you to come and celebrate! View: <http://panoramaonview.org/news>.

As part of *The Perception of Perception* conference (announced in *IPC Newsletter 07*), the Velaslavasay Panorama and the California Science Center were the two venues of this conference, organized on 19 and 20 January 2007 in part by the University of Southern California. A variety of media and their impact on the domains of art, philosophy, cognitive science and neuroscience were explored by more than a dozen speakers and workshops. "In today's data-saturated and digitally mediated world, questions of how we perceive and know the world around us have taken on a new urgency. Our ideas and experience are formed by our perception of the world. How have these perceptions been shaped through past and newly-emerging media technologies?" This quest was focus in the conference. <http://iml.usc.edu/transformations2>.

California coast amidst Dutch tulips

Big Sur, a panorama of an impressive part of the Californian coastline, has started a world tour, just like many classical panoramas used to do. It is open to the public from May 1st at the premises of the Dutch *Tulipland* panorama at Jacoba van Beierenweg 79 in Voorhout, the Netherlands, and after two years it will be moved to Tokyo and later to China. The maker, Californian artist André Balyon, unveiled *Panorama Big Sur* for the first time in 1997 in Carmel, California, close to its real location, after three years in the making with his colleague and construction engineer Thomas Metcalf. The panorama is relatively small (50x120 ft, 15x36 m high x circumference), but effective in its illusion of space, because of the vellum and the faux terrain. "I am thrilled and honored to have my panorama painting exhibited in my native country. When I grew up in The Hague, I was enormously impressed by an old panorama that still exists in that city, called *Panorama Mesdag*. I knew then, that someday I would paint something like that," Balyon endorses on his site www.andrebalyon.com/panorama-big-sur.php, that also has a video of 'the making of the *Panorama Big Sur*'.

New panorama in Luxembourg City

At the Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg, the History Museum of the City of Luxembourg, a newly opened panorama 'en miniature' – *The Marché-aux-Herbes around 1655* – brings the visitor on the main square of the city in the 17th century. The circular 'trompe-l'oeil' painting is a real 'time machine', depicting the architectural landscape and everyday life in Luxembourg under Spanish rule. Viewers find themselves standing in the middle of a market place, facing the Town Hall (today's Grand-Ducal Palace) and St Nicholas Church (demolished in 1778). The panorama

opened to the public on 15 February 2007 and is on permanent display during the museums opening hours. It was created by the French artist Antoine Fontaine and his assistant Frédéric Heurlier on a 3.5 m high canvass, 17 m in circumference and including a modest faux terrain.

Special (and spatial) feature in the museum is a 18 m2 panoramic lift, that can hold up to 65 'travelers' through history in a few minutes, showing the urban stratification of the city of Luxembourg throughout ten centuries. The historic museum as a whole has recently been adapted to the expectations of modern-day visitors. It is located at 14, rue du Saint-Esprit, L-2090 Luxembourg. Visit musee@vdl.lu.

László Nagy has left Ópusztaszer

Our member László Nagy has resigned as director of the National Historical Memorial Park of Ópusztaszer, Hungary. He has been in office since 1995. In 1992 he was at the founding conference of the European Panorama Interest Group as a journalist. In 2000 Ópusztaszer and the Park under his direction was host of the 8th IPC Conference *Panoramas and Tourism, PR and Management*. It was also under his directory that the first international Panorama Exhibition has been opened, on panoramas all around the world, and also the first film about panorama paintings was presented. With both items he launched the idea of panorama tourism and elaborated at making panoramas part of the World Heritage. He can be reached at nagylaszlo@szegedvaros.hu.

László Nagy and the Hungarian co-founder of the European Panorama Interest Group (the IPC predecessor) IPC Honorary President Dr. Ottó Trogmayer send their regards to all IPC members.

Call for orders on German '*Phänomen*'

The English and Dutch versions of *The Panorama Phenomenon* (ISBN 90-72084-35-7, Dutch version 90-72084-34-9; re: *IPC Newsletter 05*), published on the occasion of the 125th *Panorama Mesdag* jubilee, are a success. The publisher, Rob van den Braak in voluntary cooperation with IPC, Mesdag and other panoramas in the book, now consider a German language version *Das Phänomen des Panoramas*, in which will be added the *Leipzig Panorama* and the *Panorama of Big Sur*, to open in May. There is a threshold of 2000 copies to realize the same wholesale price of € 11,45, excl. 6% added value tax and transport, resulting in the indicated end-user price of € 20,-. Panoramas and sponsors can also order a special client version containing specific business information. IPC panoramas in countries where German is first or second language have been informed directly by email.

For information and orders please contact a.s.a.p. Rob van den Braak: rvd.braak@wxs.nl (+31 627014928).

2008 and 2009 IPC Conferences

The 17th IPC Conference in 2008 is foreseen in Dresden and Leipzig, Germany, organized by Prof. Yadegar Asisi, the date will be announced later, the theme will include panorama marketing (yasisi@threesixo.com).

The 18th IPC Conference in 2009 in March/April 2009 in Australia, will be organized by panorama painter Jeffrey Morgan (jeffmorgengallery@dodo.com.au).

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

You're invited to send information on panorama activities or publications to the Secretary:

konservator@bourbakipanorama.ch