

PRESS RELEASE NO.1-2010

EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY (EMA)

A European Expertise Foundation

A dynamic and forward-thinking organisation to stimulate innovative thinking in European museums.

At the beginning of this year the majority of members of the European Museum of the Year Award Judging Committee left the European Museum Forum and have formed a new, not-for-profit foundation in The Netherlands, the European Museum Academy. We considered that the time was right to establish a dynamic and forward-thinking organisation to stimulate innovative thinking in European museums, disseminating the results among the new generation of young museum professionals.

For further information on our activities, please look at the EMA website, www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu.

Background

The European Museum Academy, registered as a not-for-profit foundation in The Netherlands, has been established on the 10th anniversary of the death of the distinguished museologist, Kenneth Hudson (1916-1999) by an enthusiastic group of professionals in the museum field and the wider cultural sector.

Aims

Based on their extensive expertise this group felt that the time was right to set up a new organisation to stimulate innovative thinking in European museums, disseminating the results among the new generation of museum professionals. Focusing mainly on Europe, the Academy welcomes contributions from museums, public and private, while strongly supporting the exchange of experiences worldwide.

Activities

EMA organises activities, publishes reports, runs special projects and award schemes, and raises funds for a wide range of sectors. Training programmes, including staff exchange programmes for young professionals, are being arranged, as well as programmes concentrating on quality management. Partnerships are being developed with a growing number of organisations with the same interests in the museum and cultural sectors.

In its first year of activities, EMA will propose a programme of seminars, international meetings and other initiatives which will be announced in the coming months.

Pool of Experts and Partners

The EMA brings together a group of experts active in specific sectors of the museum and heritage world with proved experience in European programmes as well as in national and local development projects. They contribute to the development of the Academy in terms of researching, lecturing, training, writing and consulting activities. In this way the Academy benefits from co-operation with colleagues who have amassed a wide range of skills developed over the years, and is able to offer a comprehensive list of services based on sound knowledge of museums and heritage issues, with regular updating of members. A full list of experts is given below.

The Academy intends develop permanent partnerships with other organizations active in the sector. For the moment, common projects are under development thanks to the cooperation with the Scuola Normale di Pisa, the International School of Museology of Celje, the L.Micheletti Foundation. The Santa Chiara Foundation, the Caixa de Pensiones Scientific Museology Courses, the Executive Master Course of European Museology at IULM university of Milan, the ASSET Project (EU FP7 Programme), the Cyprus Institute.

Board

Andreja Rihter (*President*), Head of the International School of Museology, Celje, Slovenia , former national correspondent, European Museum Forum (SI)

Massimo Negri (*Director*), Scientific Director of the Executive Master in European Museology at the IULM University of Milan. Former Director of the European Museum Forum (I)

Wim van der Weiden (*Chairman*), Former member of Executive Board of ICOM, Director of Museon and Naturali, former Chairman of the European Museum Forum (NL)

Christopher Grayson, until recently, responsible for cultural co-operation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (F)

Arno van Berge Henegouwen, Head of Department of Natural History, Museon (NL)

Advisors

Benedetto Benedetti, Scuola Normale de Pisa (I)

Graziano Campanini, Director, Museo della Sanità Santa Maria della Vita, Bologna. Former national correspondent , European Museum Forum (I)

Hermann Schäfer, former General Director of Culture and Media in the Chancellor's Office, Berlin. Vice-Minister for Culture and Media . Former member of the Judging Committee of the European Museum Forum (D)

Tamás Vásárhelyi, Deputy Director General, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. Former national correspondent, European Museum Forum (H)

Jorge Wagensberg, Scientific Director, Fundació 'la Caixa', Barcelona. Former member of the judging committee of the European Museum Forum (ES)

Pool of Experts

*Thomas Brune, senior curator, Landesmuseum Stuttgart (D)

*Sibilla de Luxembourg, art historian, Luxembourg (L)

*J. Patrick Greene, CEO, Museum Victoria, Melbourne (AU)

*François-Xavier Nève de Mévergnies, Service de Linguistique expérimentale, Université de Liège (B)

Franco Niccolucci, The Cyprus Institute (CY)

*Ann Nicholls, freelance museum researcher and editor, Bristol (UK)

*Virgil Stefan Nitulescu, Inspector guvernamental, Secretariatul General al Guvernului, Bucuresti (R)

*Javier Pes, deputy editor, The Art Newspaper, London (UK)

Margherita Sani, Istituto Beni Culturali, Regione Emilia-Romagna, Bologna (I)

*Danièle Wagener, directeur des 2 musées de la Ville de Luxembourg (L)

**former members of the judging committee of the European Museum Forum*