



Hamburg, 10 May 2004

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Dear members:

It has been a while since you last heard from IAWIS/AIERTI. However, in the meantime we have been working to make IAWIS even more accessible, useful and interesting for all of us. There are a number of changes that may be of interest to you.

Among the changes we have decided on is this very newsletter you have in front of you. We hope that with it we have a more flexible instrument of communication than we had so far with our bi-annual booklet, *Interactions*. In future, you will receive a *newsletter* two or three times a year. It will be distributed by post as well as per email this time; we would be grateful if you could let us know in which form you would like to receive it in the future. We are willing to use either mode, so please let us know.

Our next conference, to be held in Philadelphia, 23-27 September 2005, under the general theme of *Elective Affinities*, is already in the works. Early in February, the Board of IAWIS met with the local organizing committee to discuss the programme, schedule and other aspects of the conference. Catriona MacLeod will add a short notice about where we stand right now. A Call for Papers will be published early in June this year. We hope that the programme will bring you all to Philadelphia for a week in September of 2005. Philadelphia is a wonderful city, with phantastic museums and collections, and our colleagues in the humanities there are extremely interested in what we do and plan to contribute substantially.

As many of you know, we also introduced the possibility to hold smaller symposia or workshops under the aegis of IAWIS/AIERTI. So far, our member Maria Scott who teaches French at the University of Galway has taken up the opportunity. Her symposium on *Artful Deceptions* was held on the 16th and 17th of April – she will add a short report for you to this newsletter. Our

workshop on teaching Word & Image will take place in Utrecht on 25 – 27 June 2004.

Our website: www.iawis.org is continuously being updated and enhanced; in due course we hope to have made it into a place that you want to use frequently for information and communication. Our webmaster, Eric Vos, needs our collaboration and input. He will add a few lines on the changes that have been made lately and his suggestions for the possible use we can make of this tool. Of course, information on the conferences and symposia that we organise can be obtained in full through www.iawis.org.

With best wishes,

Charlotte Schoell Glass
President IAWIS/AIERTI

Artful Deceptions

A IAWIS-sponsored bilingual French-English Conference entitled *Artful Deceptions: Verbal and Visual Trickery in French Culture / Les Supercheries littéraires: la tromperie dans la culture française* was held at National University of Ireland, Galway on 16-17 April. Over fifty speakers, based in nine different countries, participated in the event, which was organised by our member Maria Scott and Catherine Emerson of the Department of French at NUI, Galway.

Jean-François Jeandillou gave the introductory keynote lecture on « La Supercherie littéraire en images ». This paper examined the way in which fake portraits – paintings, photographs, even statues – have served, in the past, as supposed proofs of the existence of imaginary authors. On the Saturday afternoon, Malcolm Bowie gave a keynote lecture entitled “Mallarmé, Psychoanalysis and ‘Mystery’ in Literature”, which treated of the function of the secret in literature and art.

There were fifteen non-plenary panels, whose titles included ‘Forgery’, ‘To see or not to see’, ‘The faithful image’, ‘Specular narratives’, ‘Perfidious bodies’, ‘Celluloid illusions’, and ‘Seductions’. Papers discussed the workings of trickery in visual images and written texts and, more usually, in the context of word-image relations, for example in poetic transpositions of art, photographic illustrations of written text, art criticism, and narratives involving visual image. Speakers also tackled historical and philosophical questions relating to the role of perspective, illusion and fascination in art, literature and cinema.

The conference was judged a great success by all, and the organisers hope to publish a selection of the papers.

“Walter Benjamin and the Visual Arts” at the annual convention of the College Art Association in 2004

IAWIS/AIERTI sponsored a special session on “Walter Benjamin and the Visual Arts” at the annual convention of the College Art Association, held in Seattle, Washington in February. The purpose of the session was to examine the central, and in some ways problematic, place of the visual arts in Benjamin’s writings. Organised by Michèle Hannoosh, the session featured five speakers from the U.S., Denmark and Israel, who offered papers ranging from nineteenth-century American photography to the computer screen, from Benjamin’s concept of aura to his interest in the significations of the face, from a historicisation of his theories to their reformulation in our contemporary culture.

IAWIS/AIERTI can sponsor two types of sessions: a regular, two and one-half hour session such as the Benjamin one, which is formally vetted by the CAA and is competitive; or a one and one-half hour session which the Association, as an affiliated society of the CAA, is guaranteed and which is vetted by the Association alone. A session in the latter category for the 2005 CAA, to be held in Atlanta, will be organised by Véronique Plesch. Members interested in proposing either type of session for the February 2006 CAA, to be held in Boston from 22 to 25 February, should send a brief proposal to Charlotte Schoell-Glass. The deadline for regular CAA sessions for 2006 is September 2004, so proposals should reach Charlotte by July 15th: see www.collegeart.org. The deadline for the guaranteed session for us as an affiliated society is July 2005, so proposals for this should reach Charlotte by March 2005.

Elective Affinities, Philadelphia (23-27 September, 2005)

The title of the conference has been borrowed from Goethe’s 1809 novel *Elective Affinities*. There, the term “elective affinities” is the subject of an energetic debate: a chemical term that was in currency from the late eighteenth century, in the novel it extends to human relationships, both intimate and political. Since this is a novel that foregrounds “mixed media” such as tableau vivant (i.e. dramatic performances of artworks) and the picturesque garden, the concept of “elective affinities” also has profound implications for the relationship between words and images. The conference seeks – in the spirit of Goethe’s allusive discussion – to explore word/image interactions in literature and visual arts, but also as they extend to fields such as Political Science, Religious Studies, and History of Science.

Look forward to participate in an intellectual feast for IAWIS/AIERTI members in Philadelphia, with interdisciplinary sessions on topics ranging from “Sacred Words, Sacred Images” to “Political Inscriptions,” as well as exhibitions, performances, and excursions. The conference will also kick off a whole year of Word & Image events at the Penn Humanities Forum. Please visit our website when it is open for business with a call for papers on June 15th at <http://www.iawis.org.affinities/> or <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/affinities/>

Please contact the organiser for any queries or suggestions you might have:

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The redesign of the IAWIS website and its migration to a new Internet address (at <http://www.iawis.org>) appear to have had some success by themselves: visitor numbers have more than tripled over the last year.

The major changes, however, are still to come. At this very moment, we are in the midst of restructuring the 'News and Announcements' section of the website and of implementing facilities which will increase both editorial means of managing this section and opportunities for members to post their own news. We further anticipate major additions to the website following the Utrecht symposium of June 2004. One of the goals of the symposium is to discuss the desiderata and means of 'multimedia tools' for teaching W&I, at least some of which - pending the outcome of the discussion - are to be implemented shortly thereafter through the IAWIS website (e.g. bibliographic tools and course descriptions). Other additions conceived at this moment include an IAWIS address book and, possibly, discussion facilities. In short: lots of things are about to happen at <http://www.iawis.org>; please check in regularly to keep yourself informed.