

ARS ORNATA EUROPEANA

X Edition

Lisbon 2005

In July this year Sabine Braunfisch and I had the delight to attend the 10th Ars Ornata Europeaana in Lisbon. In her charming way Cristina Filipe hosted the conference-very lovely and necessary, because from the start of the first day the starting times of the program became obsolete.

The stylish beginning of the AOE took place in the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, where the director of the museum welcomed the participants.

Following we had the pleasure of a guided tour through an exhibition.

Internationally known jewellers and silversmith artists were invited to choose their favourite item of the collection and translate the inspiration into their personal piece.

The tour ended with a very impressive dancing-performance from Noam Ben-Jacov.

After that, the participants had the delight to listen to two incredible lectures, each one unique in its kind: Michael Rowe talked about SUBJECTivity and OBJECThood and Robert Baines examined The space between Vasco da Gama, 1498 and James Cook, 1770.

The first day of the conference came to a wonderful end with the reception and a dinner in the lovely garden of the museum with view over the River Tejo.

It was a very good opportunity to see old friends and exchange the latest news and to meet new people.

The news about the bombs in London put a damper on the mood, especially for the large number of British participants.

Fortunately no one was directly affected.

Friday the participants were invited to the Centro Cultural de Belém.

Monika Gaspar started the day of lectures. She introduced her concept of curating the exhibition Nomad Room.

After the lecture, there was the possibility to go in the exhibition and look at the results in the next room.

Interesting for a lot of participants was the bridge, built to the former Ars Ornata in Zurich 2003 with the movie from the Tram 4 Project.

Cristina Filipe and her team had a lot to do to get the participants out of the movie and exhibition and to gather the people for the next subject, where the director Delfim Sardoled led through the collection of his museum in a very entertaining way.

The lectures after lunch break offered a wider view, too.

Curator Alexandre Melo showed slides and spoke on the collaboration between the dancer Vera Mantero and the sculpturer Rui Chafes.

The lecture of Liesbeth den Besten of the Françoise van den Bosch Foundation about Borderline Jewellery inspired a lively discussion.

After a long day of intense listening tiredness was blown away by the very amusing and stimulating slideshow of Markus Pfannenstiel and one was refresh for an old Hollywood-movie, open-air right in the center of Lisbon.

The third day of the conference was the playful day.

After ten different workshops in the morning around Jim Jarmusch's movie „Coffee, Jewellery and Cigarettes“ and the following presentation of the results the afternoon was given to visits of galleries and ateliers.

The highlight of the day was the party at night-no wish was unfulfilled, neither the one of the Forum, that the Ars Ornata Europeaana continues.

After midnight, the party moved from the lovely yard of Ar.Co to the club Lux in the docklands.

While the The Theft of the Jewellery took place we cooked up ways with the british participants to bring the Ars Ornata to Great Britain. Cross fingers!

This Saturday gave the participants the chance to get to know each other better. With the intense work in the workshops we learned more about the people in our group, many times during the afternoon one saw the others during the day while visiting galleries and ateliers and in the evening we sat together with the same people or met new ones at the long tables.

Many had to leave on Sunday morning, but for the ones, who stayed the hosts offered a wonderful finale.

Sunday morning in the church Sao Roque the Jesuit Priest Joao Norton de Matos entertained with his lecture about The Sence of a hidden and manifest Presence in Christian Art.

After that, a coach picked us up and we had a comfortable ride to selected museums.

During the ride we were entertained by interesting facts along the way.

A last picture on the Praça Rossio marked the end of this inspiring and impressive Ars Ornata Europeana.

Some indefatigable, among those Cristina and her team prearranged a last meeting in a bar.

I can't explain where they got their resources from.....

For the last time Sabine and I feasted ourselves on the view over Lisbon and reviewed the conference.

Once again many thanks to our hosts in Lisbon!

And hopefully we will see each other again in the UK!

Astrid Niggeloh

Chairperson of the Forum für Schmuck und Design e.V.