

Dear all,

a quick update on activities:

the fifth DRA meeting was held in Hafnarhus in Reyjavik a few days before the opening of the grand Dieter Roth exhibition on 14th of May, not only in that museum (Reykjavik Arts Museum) but also in the national Museum and at one other locations. The show was excellent and now sadly finished.. Links can be found on the website, which if you don't have email you may not yet know about:

In fact the website was one of the topics of the meeting, the Academy now has its very own website:

www.dieter-roth-academy.de (as well as its own forum for us to discuss stuff at length)

and all are invited to send in material. Also your up-and-coming shows/depressions, etc.

It's rather simple looking (which I feel is a refreshing change) but already contains a lot:

At present we have well over 100 links to Dieter Roth related sites

A booklist and CD-list of stuff done by the academy members

And "Resources" – around 800 pages of largely unpublished material, including two M.A. theses (in German), the complete DR obituaries published in Germany, but in translation, and Das Wähnen in an unrevised English version

Anyone who finds anything similar, or has projects directly related to Dieter or the Academy please send stuff to me to pu on the site. It's growing fast, and is already starting to be an unparalleled information centre. Send it to me and I can scan it in.l

Probably we shall want to put on a news section, instead of what at the moment is simply called "Friends"

Also to come on it are the academy's finances (who has paid their subscription, etc. etc.) for public view (as agreed at the meeting in May); transcripts of our meetings; film clips etc etc.

Two new publications will of course be featured: Gunnar's new copy book of Dieter's working drawings, a very handsome piece, and Andrea's 6 (!) CD set of readings from the Interviews book spoken and beautifully scribbled over by the art students in hamburg. Congratulations to both. And of course the reader that has just appeared in suhrkamp verlag.

There is a fair amount of introductory text from me about the Academy: if anyone wants to argue with me about the content that's fine. One idea did occur however later between Jan and me: perhaps emphasising the Academy as a network of friends and colleagues, because this is genuinely what we are: meeting and linking and chatting and generating ideas. If this is true, it might also be nice to add the names and (email) addresses of the members, with a line or two about what they do (and also what languages they speak) so that any new or old students know where to find us. Any objections if I do this (silence I take to mean "yes")

Also: any mistakes anyone sees, please tell me

Incidentally, the website is connected to a forum site where people can exchange views on this and that... not much happening yet, but who knows?

What else happened at the meeting?

Siggi has produced a rather beautiful certificate, printed ten- or twenty-fold individually for each of the “professors” (i.e. with their name on it) which can be signed and presented to any student the professor wishes to enrol into the academy. At present they are I believe in the hands of Boekie-woekie.

Siggi also officially announced the invitation to China, Xiamen.

Here from the Internet, where there's also some very pretty photos

Xiamen also Amoy, city in southern China, in Fujian Province, on Xiamen Island, a port at the mouth of the Jiulong River. Strategically situated near the Chinmen (Quemoy) Islands and Taiwan, Xiamen is a fishing and manufacturing center. Products include ships, processed food, and chemicals. Portuguese traders arrived in Xiamen in the 1540s; they were followed by British merchants in the 17th century and by French and Dutch traders in the 18th century. The port was closed to foreigners in the 1750s and was not reopened until 1842, when it became one of the first treaty ports. Xiamen was an important tea-exporting center in the late 19th century, and a large foreign population lived on the island of Gulang, which is located in Xiamen's harbor. Xiamen was also a gateway for commerce with Taiwan. Japanese forces occupied the port from 1938 to 1945. The city was developed as an industrial center, with improved rail and road links with inland China, after trade with Taiwan ended in 1949. Population (1991) 357,290.

Xiamen, a bustling and remarkably colorful enclave of about one million, is located on the South China coast on an island of the same name. Xiamen's climate is subtropical; with summer temperatures averaging 85F and winter temperatures no lower than 50F. First settled during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). In the 17th century, Xiamen became one of the strongholds of the loyalist Ming General Zheng Chengong, who launched an expedition against the Dutch who then occupied the island of Taiwan. A statue is on Gulongyu to honor him. A picture of his statue is shown above.

Meeting will be on 15th of April 2006, people can plan around that.

Siggi says that prices once there are very cheap, he and his wife will help with a hotel etc. (He also says its beautiful, sort of the Italian Riviera of china)

The meeting will be parallel to a fluxus exhibition which, if I am right, will be put on by Rene Block! Siggi's suggestion is we can put on an exhibition of works, probably best would be stuff we did there, and if we want we can leave it there (I think this suggestion came from others) for the Museum there. Which museum I cannot quite recall, but it is connected with Siggi's wife. I shall ask him for details and send them round as soon as I know.

Interest in China, judging by informal talks in Reykjavík, is higher than expected. The Roths will go in force, in fact quite a few from Iceland are planning. Jan is doubtful; Malcolm and Erika keen.

I think that was it (it was a short meeting because everyone was busy putting up the exhibition).

All the best
Malcolm