

HENRY MEYRIC HUGHES

Curator and writer, based in London. Hon President, the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), Paris and General Co-ordinator of Council of Europe Exhibitions. Founding International Board member of Manifesta: European Biennial of Contemporary Art and first President of the International Foundation Manifesta, Amsterdam (1996-2007).

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Specialities

Visual art and culture, incl. cultural policy

International modern and contemporary art, esp. across Europe, as a whole

International biennials and large-scale exhibitions

Curating and writing about art

Employment

The British Council, 1968-1992, incl. postings to West Berlin (1968-71), Lima (1971-71), Paris (1973-77) and Milan (1979-83). Also:

Assistant Director, Visual Arts and Curator of the British Council Collection (1977-79)

Director, Visiting Arts Office (1984-86)

Director, Visual Arts (1986-92)

Director, the Hayward Gallery, the South Bank Centre, with additional responsibility for National Touring Exhibitions and the Arts Council Collection (1992-1996)

Independent Curator and Writer on Art (1996 – the present)

Curatorial/co-curatorial work incl.:

1979 British selection for São Paulo Bienal

1986-92. British Commissioner for Venice Biennale, São Paulo Bienal and Indian Triennale, incl. Frank Auerbach, Tony Cragg, Anish Kapoor, Richard Hamilton and (for architecture) James Sterling, Norman Foster, Richard Rogers, etc.

2003 Curator of Cypriot Pavilion, Venice Biennale (Nikos Charalambidis)

2008 Co-curator, Prague Triennale (Pavel Büchler)

Other exhibitions incl:

1986-92, at The British Council: Henry Moore (St. Petersburg, Moscow, Hong Kong); Francis Bacon (Moscow); British Painting and Sculpture of the 1980s (Prague, Warsaw, Budapest); Anthony Caro (Rome); Contemporary British Sculpture (Barcelona/Madrid); Lucian Freud (Berlin, Paris, Washington); Damien Hirst (Istanbul); Contemporary British Art (Tokyo, Kyoto), etc.

1992-96 at the Hayward Gallery: Yves Klein; Dalí; Julian Opie; 'The Spirit of Romanticism in German Art 1790-1990 (also to Munich); 'XXVI Council of Europe exhibition, Europe under the Dictators: 1930-1945' (also to Berlin and Barcelona); The British Art Show 4 (also on tour in the UK); 'The Epic and the Everyday' (international contemporary photography), etc.

1996-present, as an independent: 'Private Face – Urban Space' - young British artists (Athens, Rethymnon); New Art from London (Gothenburg); 'Plus que réel' – young

French artists (Paris); 'Grenzelos/Borderless' – young Norwegian artists (Oslo and tour); 'The Age of Modernism Art in the 20th Century' (Berlin); 'Blast to Freeze: British Art in the Twentieth Century' (Wolfsburg, Toulouse), etc. Currently co-curating XXX Council of Europe exhibition, 'Critique and Crisis: Art in Europe since 1945' at the German Historical Museum Berlin (2012-13) and tour (Cracow, Tallinn, Milan, 2013).

Juries and Prizes

Jury member for biennales in Cetinje (chair), Guangju (chair), Dakar, Santo Domingo, Cetinje, Cagnes-sur-Mer, Oostende, etc. and the Premio Furla (Bologna), Artists for the World (Geneva) and the Turner Prize, in Britain. Member of the curatorial selection team for the 7. Bienal do Mercosul, in 2008.

Congresses and Conferences

As International President of AICA (2002-2008) chaired international congresses in South Caribbean, France, Slovenia, Taiwan, Brazil and Spain and subsequently contributed to the Congresses in Paris and Asuncion. Additional participation in AICA seminars in Copenhagen, Dublin, Athens, Addis Ababa, Dakar, Cape Town. Recent participation in conferences in Tallinn, Beijing, Madrid, Shanghai, Vienna, Warsaw, Rio de Janeiro, etc.

Boards and Committees

Adviser to UNESCO (inspection of the National Art Gallery, Namibia) and the Council of Europe, for their exhibitions programme and artistic exchanges with Eastern Europe. Past member of Advisory Boards of museums and Kunsthallen incl. Bologna, Budapest, Göteborg, Porto Alegre and Vienna. Currently member of Scientific Committees of DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague and the Archives de la critique d'art, Rennes. Also, Board member of the Institute of International Visual Arts (INIVA) and Matt's Gallery, London, and Arnolfini, Bristol.

Educational Activities

Course Tutor, 'Professional Standards in Curatorial Practice' for young curators from East and South-Eastern Europe, Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade (2002); President of the Jury for the Diploma examinations at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris (2003-4). Currently (2011-13) external examiner for the MA Curating Course at the Royal College of Art, London.

Publications

Recent books (trans., co-ed. and co-authored with Ramon Tio Bellido) for aica press, Paris: *From Art School to Professional Practice*, 2008; *AICA in the Age of Globalisation*, 2009; 'Art Criticisms in Africa/Critiques d'Art en Afrique', 2010. Recent articles and essays incl.: 'Sul curare', for *Curare l'arte*, ed. Chiara Bertola, Milan, Electa, 2008; 'Drawing the Line Short; Exhibiting in a Contested Space', in *Manifesta Journal of Contemporary Curating* no. 5, Milan, Silvana Editoriale, 2008; 'Pierre Restany: Networks' and 'Pierre Restany: AICA and the East European Adventure', in *Le Demi-siècle de Pierre Restany*, co-ed. INHA/Editions des Cendres, Paris, 2009; *No Borders (Just N.E.W.S.)*, ex. cat. (co-ed.), Paris, 2008; 'The Critic Laughs', in *Krytyka I rynek Sztuki/Art Criticism and the Market*, Warsaw, 2008; 'The History and Significance of the Biennale, as an Instrument of Globalisation', in *ABCA Conference Proceedings* (in Portuguese), Brazil, São Paulo, 2009; 'Shifting Perspectives and Strategic Realignments. Looking afresh at Art in Europe since 1945', in *Different Modernisms, Different Avant-Gardes. Problems in Central and*

East European Art after World War II. Proceedings of the Art Museum of Estonia. Tallinn, KUMU, 2009; 'A Crítica de Arte Amadurece: Brasília, AICA e o Congresso Extraordinário de 1959', in *Cidade Nova: Síntese das Artes*, DOCOMOMO-Rio, 2009.

International Editorial Committee, *La Critique d'art* (Rennes); Past Contributing Editor of *Tema Celeste* and regular contributor to *Times Higher Educational Supplement*. Contributor to numerous magazines and journals (*Art Press*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *Apollo* ...).

Decorations

Silver Medal for International Cultural Relations, Czechoslovakia, 1986; Officier des Arts et des Lettres, France, 1997; Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2002.