

European seminar for curators Religious heritage in museums, uses and contextualization

Dates From Monday, December 12 to Saturday, December 17, 2011 inclusive

Context The European seminar for curators, established in 2004, is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Communication (General Secretariat, Department of European and International Affairs; Directorate General for Heritage, Museums of France Service, Department of European and International Affairs, Department of Scientific and Technical Training), within the framework of its training program implemented in 2011 by the Maison des Cultures du Monde, working with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

Thanks to the support of the Directions régionales des affaires culturelles involved, it will bring together in Paris and in the Bourgogne, Languedoc-Roussillon and Rhône-Alpes regions some twenty museum professionals from the countries of the Council of Europe and the French regions from Monday, December 12 to Saturday, December 17, 2011 inclusive. They will have an opportunity to pool their knowledge, practices and projects. This seminar will allow for the creation and development of relations and networks between French and European professionals.

Topic **Religious heritage in museums: uses and contextualization**

The seminar will offer French and foreign professionals presentations on the topic of "religious heritage in museums: uses and contextualization" in the form of field visits, exchanges and discussions, with time reserved so that all of the participants can present their institutions and approaches.

The seminar will be based on a series of visits to sites and meetings with the people who run them. It will take a multi-faceted approach to the heritage involved: religious heritage in museums. How can a public interest institution, i.e. a French museum, transmit secular messages about religious heritage? How should we speak about religious and sacred phenomena? What anthropological definition should we give to religious matters and sacred objects? What is a religious or sacred object or fact, what prerequisites must be given to the public? How can we present practices linked to objects taken out of their context on a sensitive topic like religious practice? Can devotional uses subsist or coexist within a museum institution? If so, how?

The seminar is designed as a sequence of modules focusing on various forms of museums that are mainly devoted to religious heritage.

Organization **Exchanges and interactivity**

The program draws on the work of the 2010 European seminar – textile heritage and its regional roots – and the experience of seminars in networks, such as the textile and fashion network in the Auvergne, Limousin, and Rhône-Alpes regions, and intercultural dialogue in heritage institutions. The exchanges will be transcribed and sent to the participants (French/English). The program is essentially composed of interactive visits and workshops led by people working at the sites visited, in order to encourage joint projects or partnerships. There will be a broad range of discussions each day to allow the participants to present the issues that they are interested in and their expectations for the site that they are in charge of and on the topic of their choice: modes of acquisition and mediation, experiments, sharing of evaluations, projects to be jointly developed, etc.

Provisional program Monday, December 12

program Welcome in Paris at Directorate General for Heritage with: Museums of France Service, Department of International and European Affairs, Department of scientific and technical training. General Secretariat. Maison des Cultures du Monde. Participants' round table. Presentation of the seminar's approach.

Museum of Art and History of Judaism: Visit to the museum. www.mahj.org

Departure by train for Sens.

Tuesday, December 13

Sens: Museum and treasures of Saint-Etienne Cathedral. www.musees-bourgogne.org

Dijon: Museum of Sacred Art. www.musees-bourgogne.org

Wednesday, December 14

Dijon: presentation of systems for collaboration between religious institutions, heritage institutions and users.

Thursday, December 15

Paray-le-Monial: Hiéron Museum. www.musee-hieron.fr

Friday, December 16

Pont-Saint-Esprit: Museum of Sacred Art. www.gard-provencal.com/musees/artsacre.htm

Return to Paris

Saturday, December 17

Evaluation of the seminar and outlook for the future.

Presenters Project Director

Sylvie Grange, head heritage curator, Head of the Office of professional and international networks at the Directorate General for Heritage, French Museum Service.

Invited Curator

Madeleine Blondel, head heritage curator, curator of the museum of sacred art and Perrin de Puycousin in Dijon.

Preparation of the Acts of the Seminar

Roxana Ploestean, Doctoral candidate and instructor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon.

Conditions for participation Participation conditions for French professionals:

Be a heritage curator or assistant curator

Procedure Have a good knowledge of English

Be interested in the subject for professional reasons

Participation conditions for European professionals:

Be a museum curator, manager of a collection in a public sector museum or the manager of a collection intended for the public

Be a citizen of one of the 47 member countries of the Council of Europe (not including France)

Speak French or, failing that, speak English with a good oral understanding of French

The applicants must be directly involved with the proposed topic, have already carried out projects in partnerships, and if possible have projects with an international scope.

Expenses covered:

For European professionals, the following costs are covered by the Maison des Cultures du Monde:

The tuition for the seminar

Living expenses (accommodations and *per diem*)

Travel within France for the needs of the program

Insurance

The international travel tickets for the applicants must be paid for by their establishments or by the French Embassy in their respective countries.

Procedure for submission of an application:

The application can be picked up at the cultural service of the French Embassy in the applicant's country of residence.

Deadline for receipt of applications by the Maison des Cultures du Monde: October 30, 2011

You can request information and application forms from, and please send all applications to:

Maison des Cultures du Monde

Isaline Bouchet:

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Site: www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org («Programme courants» section)