Souillac II

A Conference on Art, Industry & Innovation

Final Report

Welcoming Remarks

What is the place of art in a world where technology plays the predominant role we all know so well? How to reconcile these two universes so paradoxically opposed but undeniably linked in an era where technology offers new tools for artistic creation and multiples the possibilities for its diffusion.

To ask these essential questions as we enter the next millennium and, following the logic of the Souillac Charter proposed last year, to suggest what might be possible future collaboration between the two sectors, such is the merit of the second seminar, "Art, Industry and Innovation".

As seen in the following document, the working groups met July 6th to the 17th motivated by a willingness not to have just "another seminar" but to propose concrete actions.

The Regional Council is happy to have participated in such an original event and one which sums up well the spirit of our region, half way between tradition and modernity.

Martin Malvy, President of the Midi-Pyrénées Regional Council The Souillac II meeting was supported by the European Commission, DG XIII, the Arts Council of England, Bell Atlantic, the Government of Quebec's Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Canadian Embassy in Paris, the Daniel Langlois Foundation for Art, Science, and Technology, the city of Souillac and the Midi-Pyrénées Region. We wish here to express our sincere appreciation for that support.

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Building on the Charter*

The second meeting in Souillac held this summer from July 6th to 17th produced a number of specific projects or project ideas following up on elements of the Souillac Charter for Art and Industry written the year before. The Charter can been seen in French and in English at the addresses listed below.

While all the projects are interrelated they are presented here as a series of detached documents corresponding to the categories established in the preliminary report and listed below. Some of the projects found form during our meeting, others have been developed further since. Still others have to be further refined. All of them demand an enormous amount of work. In some cases preliminary funding to begin that work has already been identified. For others, the search has just begun.

- 1 Innovation Exchange Workshops
- 2 High Band-Width Network for Artistic Experimentation
- 3 The Navihedron
- 4 Artists Rights in the New Communication Space Survey
- 5 Interactivity and Pedagogical Tools:
 - Build clear educational projects
 - Organise an International Technology Observatory, a network across art / education / research / industry
 - Organise a network of pedagogical innovation
 - Teach teachers
 - Develop pedagogical resources
 - Normalise on-line translation
 - Modify educational working methods
- 6 An International Virtual Faculty on Art and Science
- 7 "Instrument Makers", An art exhibit
- 8 Flexible model for art, industry and government interaction

You are all, of course, invited to comment or expand on the conclusions, send additional information pertinent to the goals expressed, volunteer for any of the work proposed, help find funding to reach the various stages indicated or pass on any ideas that will further our joint efforts. We wish to thank everyone sincerely for their participation and energy in making Souillac II a success.

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