

**THE INTERNATIONAL ART MARKET STUDIES ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday 01 July 2023
at Université libre de Bruxelles and online
15:00 – 16:00 CEST

Board Members present

Véronique Chagnon-Burke – Chair (VCB), Kim Oosterlinck – Chair (KO), Natasha Degen (NG), Philipp Nuernberger (PhN), Olav Velthuis (OV), Filip Vermeylen (FV).

The AGM was quorate.

Ca. 20 members were present

15:00 – Start of the AGM

- **Welcome word**
- **Approval of the 2022 minute**

The 2022 minute is approved by the assembly.

- **Report of activities**

TIAMSA Books live discussions

VCB: successful initiative proposed and moderated by KO.

New board

VCB - The new chairs of the board took up their new role within the organization this year. One of the main priorities was to draft a new constitution for the association, with the goal of becoming a non-profit organization (NPO). This mission was endorsed by Philipp Nuernberger. This will allow TIAMSA to benefit of more solid legal grounds to stand out, to become more transparent and to bring the association to the next level.

PhN: The quorum to vote a new constitution, according to the current constitution, is 5 members, which is met in this AGM. The finances of the association are positive, with currently GBP 29,000 on TIAMSA's bank account (against GBP 26,000 in 2022). Currently, the membership fees are determined as follows:

1. Regular: GBP 20
2. Concessionary (proof of status required): GBP 10

3. Institutional (non-profit / public; entitles 3 individuals of the institution to benefits): GBP 50
4. Corporate: GBP 120
5. Association: GBP 200
6. Donor: GBP 300

The main expenses of the association are the organization of the annual conference, staff stipends (GBP 1,000 for Inna SCHILL and Sharon DOWLEY, against GBP 500 previously), website maintenance, processing fees on subscriptions.

Currently, TIAMSA is an “unincorporated nonprofit association” which entails personal liability for persons who operate within the association. As the association is growing, this constitution is no longer adapted, and a separate liable entity is needed. Among the existing models in the UK for NPO, a “charitable incorporate organization” (CIO) appears as the most appropriate for TIAMSA. This is a corporate form of business designed for (and only available to) charitable organisations.

If TIAMSA becomes a CIO, there will be new opportunities to apply for a charitable status with interesting tax incentives (to increase donations from members, or possibly envisioning annual membership as a form of donation). The liability is no longer personal and this status offers a more transparent framework regarding the association’s finances (as annual accounts must be reported to the UK Charity Commission).

This will improve the image of the association among members who can be reassured regarding its internal management. This constitution is longer and more complex than the current one, but the new constitution draft was based on the UK charity commission’s CIO model. It involves membership rights, annual meeting rules, trustees’ rules, etc.

Q&A with the members:

- FV asks if, in the post Brexit context, the UK is still the best place to host the association. Ph.N confirms that the UK offers a well-structured and professional legal framework and the post Brexit situation will not affect the association as this is not a for-profit organization. No particular issue can be detected with the payment of memberships fees (for both the association and its members).

The tax system is also better in the UK and many administrative tasks can directly be handled online. KO adds that TIAMSA already has its bank account in the UK, which is a non-negligible advantage. Yet, the association is seeking for a UK address to receive the mails (not so many mails are expected). TIAMSA members living in the UK are welcome to volunteer. TIAMSA member Melanie FASCHE suggests that the London Sotheby’s Institute of Art could take up this role, but KO points out a possible conflict of interest. TIAMSA Zacharias MAWICK accepts this role.

- TIAMSA member Stephanie DIECKVOSS asks if the constitution draft is available; PhN recalls that it was sent to members on June 5, 2023.
- FV ask if tax benefits also apply for non-UK residents. PhN indeed confirms that UK residents are mostly concerned with these UK-tax benefits but it depends on the context of residency.
- Giada PELLICARI asks regarding the possibility of getting fundings from the association. KO replies that this is indeed an option, when the association will become a charity.

- In terms of timeline, PhN will submit the new proposition of constitution to the UK Charity Commission which may take from 3 to 6 months. It is likely that the commission comes back to TIAMSA with some comments or suggestions of amendments. This will require some changes by the board. Alicja JAGIELSKA-BURDUK suggests that the assembly vote to enable the board to bring these changes without reorganizing a general meeting.

The new constitution is voted unanimously.

- **Membership fees**

- KO specifies that the association's finances are good this year because the ULB has supported most of the conference's costs, but the association cannot impose that to the next organizers. There are two options: either TIAMSA increases its membership fees or it applies fees for registering at the next conferences. Currently the membership fees are relatively low, with fees discriminations allowing students to register.

Q/A with the members:

- Giada PELLICARI suggests that this system should be extended to independent researchers.
- FV suggests a price increase commensurate to inflation.
- VCB recalls that accessibility is key and is part of TIAMSA's DNA.
- Stephanie DIECKVOSS suggests a relative increase (no more than 50%)

Overall, members agreed that the membership fees must remain affordable. KO suggests the following:

- Regular: GBP 30
- Concessionary (proof of status required): GBP 15
- Institutional (non-profit / public; entitles 3 individuals of the institution to benefits): GBP 75

These new membership fees are voted unanimously.

- **Next TIAMSA conference in Melbourne (2024)**

- TIAMSA member Georgina Walker (GW) will host the next TIAMSA conference at the University of Melbourne (11-13 July 2024). She has constituted an advisory committee to assist the hosts in the planning phase. Some visits will be included in the program as it is the first time that the TIAMSA conference is taking place outside the EU and the UK.

The organizers' objective is to expand TIAMSA' network, to initiate a reflection on indigenous culture and art market and on first-nation people, and to involve different partners from the industry. The conference topics will be broad to avoid excluding participants (e.g., different market segments, reception of art objects in various contexts, etc.). A call for panels and a call for papers will be out soon. A master class for graduate students will certainly be organized before the start of the conference.

Q&A with the members:

- TIAMSA member Stephanie DIECKVOSS asks if the conference will be hybrid, to allow people who cannot afford travelling that far to participate in the conference. This is confirmed by GW.
- **Next objectives**
 - KO announces that some board members are interested in hosting the next editions of the conference (Olav VELTHUIS in Amsterdam, Natasha DEGEN in New York) but the goal is also to attract people from other parts of the world. Currently the board is very Europe-centered and will be open to new members from other regions. VCB recalls that there is no cap for the number of board members (3 minimum but no more than 10 members). It's a 3-year term, 1x renewable.
 - Once the association's new constitution is operational, TIAMSA board's main missions will be the following: to expand the network of practitioners; to reach and better represent other segments of the art markets; to focus on the future generations of art market researchers and practitioners (by organizing events dedicated to their work, developing funding opportunities, etc.)
- **Forthcoming activities**
 - The next live book discussions will be dedicated to Natascha DEGENS's book on art and fashion, with VCB and Véronique POUILLARD as discussants, and to Geert Sels' book on looted art in Belgium, discussed by KO and Mattes LAMMERT). If TIAMSA members are aware of recent, interesting book releases, they can directly write to KO.
 - VCB recalls that two TIAMSA sessions will take place at the next CAA conference in Chicago (February 2024), with a joint session with the *Society for the History of Collecting*. Participating in this major event increases TIAMSA's visibility with a business meeting organized on the occasion. A short session on how artists collaborate with the art market is also planned.
 - Marta PEREZ IBANEZ and Adelaïde DUARTE will organize sessions on good practices in contemporary art, presented in Lisbon at the art fair, Drawing Room (October 2024).
- **Final info**
 - Inna SCHILL and Sharon DOWLEY will pass the hand on the association coordination. TIAMSA is looking for two new coordinators (with small stipends of GBP 1,000 for max. 1-2hours per week). In addition to skills in social media and website management, one of the coordinators must be finance-savvy to report accounting to the Charity Commission (yet, being an accountant is not a prerequisite as the financial management of the association is not particularly complex but needs someone to coordinate all this and prepare an excel sheet for the annual report). The idea is also to lighten the workload of Johannes NATHAN who is currently in charge of selecting the content to be disseminated through the TIAMSA community. The call for applications will be out soon and TIAMSA members are invited to spread the word.

15:56 – The 2023 TIAMSA AGM is closed.