

# European Seminar for Curators

## Contemporary phenomena in museums

**Dates** From Monday, June 11 to Saturday, June 16, 2012 inclusive

**Context** The European Seminar for Curators, launched in 2004, is an initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Communications (Secretariat General, Department of European and International Affairs; Directorate General for Heritage, Service des musées de France, Department of European and International Affairs), within the framework of its training program implemented by the Maison des Cultures du Monde, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.

It will bring together in Paris and in other regions, thanks to the support of the Regional Cultural Affairs Departments involved, some museum professionals from the member countries of the Council of Europe and the French regions, from Monday, June 11 to Saturday, June 16 inclusive, who can thereby share their knowledge, practices and projects. This seminar will help to create and develop networks of contacts between French and European professionals.

**Topic** **Topic: contemporary phenomena in museums**

The European Seminar for Curators will bring together about a dozen foreign curators working in the member countries of the Council of Europe, from Monday, June 11 to Saturday, June 16, on the topic "contemporary phenomena in museums". It will examine issues such as: what role is granted to audiences in the design of museums and exhibitions? How is the perception by people who constitute today's society taken into account in the constitution and enhancement of museum collections? In history and ethnography museums, how are inquiry-collecting projects, which combine research and a reasoned acquisition policy, carried out? What role is acknowledged for contemporary expression in museums, whether or not they are fine arts museums? What role is attributed to artists: orders, carte blanche, communication policies, etc? How is the digital culture – beyond the issue of tools – included in the scientific and cultural discourse of museums? Lastly, what are the specific aspects of museums of contemporary art with respect to other museums? An overview will be given of the environment in France for contemporary artistic expression outside of museums (Regional Funds for Contemporary Art, National Funds for Contemporary Art, "1% artistique" (French legal provision in favor of modern art), public orders, art professions, Mobilier national (national resource for furnishing official buildings), etc.)

**Format** **Exchanges and interactivity**

The seminar is organized in the form of a series of visits to museums and meetings with the teams that manage them, in Paris and especially in other regions. These meetings will cover all types of museums: museums of ethnography, natural history and fine arts museums. There will be substantial daily discussion periods to allow the participants to go over the issues raised by the visits. French curators will also take part in this seminar so that they can discuss their knowledge, practices and projects with their foreign counterparts. A report of the seminar, covering the main exchanges and evaluations and the work done, will be drawn up and distributed. The seminar will be conducted in French with simultaneous translation into English.

**Conditions for participation / Procedure** **Conditions of participation for French professionals:**

Being a heritage curator or assistant curator

A good knowledge of English

A professional interest in the subject

**Conditions of participation for European professionals:**

Be a museum curator, in charge of a collection in a public sector museum or in charge 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, English with a good oral knowledge of French

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

**Cost that are covered:**

The following expenses are covered by the Maison des Cultures du Monde for European professionals:

Costs for the seminar educational program

Living expenses (accommodations and per diem)

Travel within France for the needs of the program

Insurance

The applicants' international travel tickets must be paid for by their establishments or by themselves or by the Embassies of France in their countries of residence.

**Procedure for submitting an application:**

Applicants can pick up the application at the cultural service of the Embassy of France in their country of residence.

It can also be downloaded from the site of the Maison des Cultures du Monde: [www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org](http://www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org) (**Programme Courants section**)

**Deadline for the receipt of applications by the Maison des Cultures du Monde: April 16, 2012**

**For information, forms and to send your applications, contact the Maison des Cultures du Monde:**

**Isaline Bouchet:**

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Fax: +33 (0)1 45 44 11 85

E-mail: [bouchet@maisondesculturesdumonde.org](mailto:bouchet@maisondesculturesdumonde.org)

Site: [www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org](http://www.maisondesculturesdumonde.org) (**Programme Courants section**)

Paper copies of the applications must be sent to Messrs. Pierre Provoyeur, General Heritage Curator, Deputy Director for Museum Policies, and Bruno Favel, Head of the Department of European and International Affairs of the Directorate General for Heritage – 6, rue des Pyramides 75001 Paris. Also send copies by E-mail to Mesdames Sylvie Grange and Orane Proisy, at the following addresses:

[sylvie.grange@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:sylvie.grange@culture.gouv.fr), [orane.proisy@culture.gouv.fr](mailto:orane.proisy@culture.gouv.fr)