



ICEFAT NEWS

News from the International Convention of Exhibition and Fine Art Transporters — Newsletter No.3, 2011

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



SUCCESS was the word heard from our members around the world.

ICEFAT's 35th Annual Convention held at the beautiful Loews Lake Las Vegas Resort in Nevada, USA was another great "success" and all delegates found it very informative.

Included in the 3 day convention was a workshop on shipping into and out of China presented by Ida Ng of Helu-Trans (S) Pte Ltd. China is an important emerging market and it can present unique challenges. Other member presentations included "Public Art Projects: Working with Government Entities" by Scott Atthowe of Atthowe Fine Art; "Physical Energy" by Michael Festerstein of Oxford Exhibition Services Ltd; and an awe-inspiring presentation by Al Mithal of Star Worldwide Group, India and Chris Kneale of Martinspeed Limited, London "Anish Kapoor – A Passage to India". We will feature member presentations in this and future issues of ICEFAT News. These presentations were of the highest calibre and demonstrated the unique talents

Import / Export Regulations in China



At the ICEFAT Convention in Las Vegas this past October, one of our members, Ida Ng of Helu-Trans (S) Pte Ltd, Singapore, organized an enlightening session on import taxes in China. This information is actually available at multiple non-profit institutional websites as well as at the FAQ pages of numerous international freight and customs brokerage portals. It is widely agreed that taxation of goods as well as works of art into China is onerous and costly, aimed more at encouraging exports of its own product to the rest of the global marketplace, similar to Brazil and other rapidly developing super powers.

After listening to the presentation, which was as elegant as Ms Ng herself, many of my previous beliefs were confirmed. There is no way around these regulations without breaking the law, and as a community representing the finest art handling companies worldwide, we should not promote the sort of chicanery employed by less reputable transporters.

Andrew Faintych, Atelier 4's COO said: "We've heard anecdotally about less than scrupulous art transporters in China who actively import items into Hong Kong, then move those goods into mainland China via their own suspicious means." Whether a free port such as Hong Kong is the interim safe harbor, or even Taiwan, market pressures will inspire some concerns to do what they have to do to capitalize on a combination of (a) their knowledge of how to cheat the local laws and (b) their foreign customer's ignorance (or willingly naive ignorance) of the Chinese import duty laws.

A few years ago, a US-based contemporary art gallery was preparing to open an annex in China, and because of our long-standing friendship, asked me if there was a way to bring art works into China on a temporary bond. I told him that there are ways of bringing goods into China for exhibition, and this was explained in detail by Ms Ng. If the exhibition or venue is underwritten by a Chinese government agent, then yes, with some initial preparation, one can have a temporary bond and avoid paying taxes. Of course, the shipment would need to exit China in due time and this was not what my gallery friend was looking for. I am not certain how he is arranging his imports, and I really don't want to ask him. I just hope he's doing it the right way, and as with any foreign owned business in China, it's probably costing him a pretty Renminbi.

Not only do ICEFAT agents have an ethical right to uphold international customs laws, but as the temporary custodian of cultural property, at times

of our members. It was clear to see that the membership is solely devoted to excellence in our field.

ICEFAT was honored to be able to present Mr. Robert M. Edsel, the founder of the Monuments Men Foundation, as our guest speaker. Mr. Edsel spoke of his passion for art, the dedication of the Monuments Men to preserving world culture in times of war and conflict, and the efforts of the Monuments Men Foundation to locate and assist with the repatriation of cultural objects throughout the world. For more insight into this fascinating organization go to www.monumentsmenfoundation.org

Shortly following the ICEFAT convention a record number of our members from around the world made the trek back to the USA to attend the 4th - International Registrars Symposium held in Houston Texas, USA.

By all accounts this symposium was also a BIG "success", congratulations are due to the organizing team. The sessions presented were timely and provided a wonderful opportunity for the exchange of information that will assist both the Registrars and the International Fine Art shipping communities. ICEFAT is proud to have been a major supporter of the International Registrars Symposia since their inception.

As time draws us toward festive celebrations worldwide, live in peace with your neighbor, be blessed with abundance, and grateful for both.

*Mark Starling
ICEFAT Chair*

inestimable, we are to avoid all risk. Smuggling, by nature, is risky business; therefore, it should never be in the arsenal of a fine art transporter. It's not fair, and...it's not funny, so don't do it.

Like my father always told me, you have to spend money to make money.

Jonathan Schwartz, Atelier4 Inc,
New York

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON ICEFAT

I first heard of ICEFAT in the late '70s/early '80s when I was the Registrar at The Jewish Museum in New York. It appeared to be this mysterious group of select companies who met in various locations around the world. It all seemed so clandestine and full of intrigue.

When I left the museum to join a London-based shipping company, we were invited to attend one of these meetings held in New York, my home base. I will never forget how important I felt attending my first ICEFAT formal dinner. With my boss from London, we went to the lavish dinner in a private dining room at "Windows on The World" atop the World Trade Center. To this day, I can remember looking out from the 108th floor for the first time and seeing the twinkling lights of Manhattan. I felt like I was on top of the world.



Unfortunately, that London-based company was never invited back to ICEFAT and I didn't attend conventions for several years. Eventually, I started a Fine Arts Division in partnership with a customs broker/freight forwarder located in the World Trade Center. That company received an invitation to join ICEFAT in 1985. Within a couple of years, we separated from the parent company to become RBA in 1987. We have been proud members of ICEFAT ever since.

Over the years, ICEFAT has evolved from a loosely organized fraternity with a "Ladies Programme" to a real and inclusive organization with a charter, rules, regulations, and standards. What was once a strictly social meeting and an excuse to travel all over the world (if your company was considered worthy by the powers-that-be) is now a serious and respected trade organization. We now have committees, by-laws, an agenda and goals. We encourage transparency and the creation and implementation of international world-wide standards. Information is shared – not withheld.

On a personal level, I am pleased with the direction that ICEFAT has taken and hope that my contributions and ideas have helped shape what it is today. I am also grateful to ICEFAT for the opportunity it has allowed me to travel, and for the friends, colleagues, and experiences that have added so much to my life.

*Racine Berkow
RBA – Racine Berkow Associates, Inc. NY, USA*

ICEFAT HONORS LOYAL MEMBERS

25year Member

RBA - Racine Berkow Associates, Inc.

New York, USA since 1987



RBA was established in 1987 by Racine Berkow, a former Registrar at a major New York City museum. The company's goals were to provide museum-quality fine art handling and shipping services to the art world.

Over the past 25 years, RBA has handled and shipped major world treasures ranging from the "Dead Sea Scrolls" and the manuscripts of Albert Einstein to the "Treasures of Pompeii." Ms Berkow's company has been entrusted with innumerable objects and artifacts from galleries, private collectors, and institutions that require the kind of specialized handling and services that RBA continues to provide.

RBA is a licensed customs broker and IATA freight forwarder. For most of its 25 year history, RBA was a third party logistics provider. All that changed with its move in 2008 to Long Island City, a short subway ride from mid-Manhattan. RBA now has its own trucks, TSA Certified warehouse, and packing facilities on-site.

RBA is a proud member of ICEFAT and has been for many years. Ms Berkow served on the ICEFAT Membership Subcommittee and as its chairperson for many years. RBA and its employees appreciate the opportunity that ICEFAT provides to form strong bonds of friendship and trust with like-minded colleagues around the globe.



ICEFAT TEAMS UP WITH A FISH!

ICEFAT is committed to helping the environment wherever possible. Through the work of the ICEFAT Green Subcommittee we have been working on ways to reduce our impact on the planet. One of the goals of the Subcommittee has been to educate ICEFAT members on greener methods and materials.



Henry the fish by The Washed Ashore community project.

One agent, Ship/Art International, has found a unique way to help get the message out there: by teaming up with a fish! Yes that's right a fish! Henry the fish is a larger than life sculpture created by The Washed Ashore Project.

The Washed Ashore community members are working together to clean-up our beaches and process the items collected into art supplies used to construct giant sculptures of the marine creatures most at risk from plastic pollution. Henry is made entirely of materials washed up onshore. The projects goal is to raise public awareness about the impacts of trash in the oceans and on marine mammals and our environment.

Henry and his fellow Ocean Ambassadors, including Tula the Turtle and Avery the Giant Bird, have been traveling throughout the west coast of the United States. Now, with the help of Tim Polishook at Ship/Art, they are being packed up and prepared to take their message on a global tour. Maybe you will see them soon in a town near you!

Please help Henry and his friends by visiting them at www.washedashore.org/exhibit.php#host

Greg Cahagan

Ship/Art International San Francisco, USA

WHAT'S ON

AAM ANNUAL MEETING & MUSEUM EXPO

Minneapolis, USA
April 29 – May 2, 2011
www.aam-us.org/am12/

18th BIENNALE OF SYDNEY

all our relations
Sydney, Australia
June 27 – Sept 16, 2012

ICEFAT CONVENTION

Stockholm, Sweden
October 4 – 7, 2012
www.icefat.org

VIII EUROPEAN REGISTRARS CONFERENCE

Edinburgh, Scotland
Nov 4 – 6, 2012
www.ukregistrarsgroup.org

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS

23rd General Conference
ICOM Rio 2103
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
10 – 17 August 2013

NEW MEMBER Asya International Movers Limited, Turkey



Asya International Movers Limited was established in 1963 by Ilhan Demirel in Ankara, the capital city of Turkey. Mr Demirel currently shares management of the company with his three daughters: Hulya, Ebru and Banu. Since the founding of the company, additional offices with ISO standardized warehouses have been opened in Istanbul, Izmir and Adana.

Asya International Movers has been handling fine arts for over 25 years and since 1997 a separate team of handlers and coordinators has been designated to fine arts shipments only. All of Asya's services are handled in-house and there is a dedicated staff who oversees fine art shipments from start to finish. Furthermore, the company recently added a museum standard fine art warehouse to their existing facilities – the first commercial facility of its kind in Turkey.



Regular training focus both on the theoretical and practical aspects of art handling. Most recently, the company's fine arts team attended a daylong workshop under the tutelage of conservators and researchers from ICCROM, The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency and Canadian Conservation Institute.

Asya International Movers fine art division is committed to upholding the quality of its services and uses the most up-to-date technology to manage its logistics and handling.

GREEN POINT

Recycle not Landfill

The average American household has three cell phones stashed in a drawer. Sell unused cell phones to greenphone.com or a similar organization in your country. You will receive a little cash (about \$35 in the USA), and the phones will be refurbished and resold.

Don't send your old television to land-fill – take it to a recycling program in your neighborhood. If 1 million people recycled one cathode-ray tube TV this year, they would keep 4 million pounds of lead out of landfill.



ICEFAT
162 Brandywine Drive
P.O. Box 875
Hudson, OH 44236 USA

Phone (330) 342 4638
Fax (330) 342 0697
E-mail secretariat@icefat.org
Web www.icefat.org