

PROGRAM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE ARTIST/WRITER PORTFOLIO PROJECT

Cadenabbia
27 May 1998

The Societe Imaginaire, through the Batuz Foundation, an international cultural institution, fosters collaboration among artists, writers, statesmen, diplomats, and other intellectuals from diverse cultures and societies in South America, Central Europe, and the United States. The collaboration leads to multi-layered projects with specific end results. Each project is an experiment in which conventional boundaries--geographic, cultural, disciplinary--are addressed. These experiments in international collaboration are applicable at many levels of education.

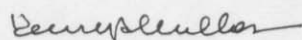
The artist/writer portfolios are among the most tangible products of these collaborative efforts. Six portfolios, each with six pairs of complementary texts and images, contain works by writers and artists from different countries. Successive portfolios have built upon the experience of prior editions. Collectively, the successive portfolios constitute a sequential record of specific moments in the history of international collaborations. The momentum of the project is expected to produce new ideas and modes of collaboration.

These portfolios are donated to the principal museums and libraries of modern and contemporary art in Central Europe, South America, and the United States, areas to which the foundation remains committed. In these repositories, the portfolios constitute not only the record of a noble experiment, but they are also works of art, collaboratively devised for a specific occasion by prominent poets, writers, graphic artists, painters, and sculptors, including Nobel and Poet Laureates, and statesmen.

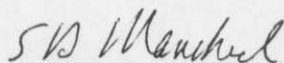
The portfolio project is prepared to enter a new and enhanced phase. Six pairs of fellows, recipients of the Societe Imaginaire Prize, will be chosen by a selection process in the participating countries. The Societe Imaginaire Fellows will--through continuous discussion, demonstrations, and exchange during an intensive six-week residential collaboration at Alzella--establish a concept and theme for the portfolio. The production of the portfolio, to be realized with materials from the handmade paper laboratory at Alzella, will be completed during the term of the residential fellowship. It is expected that two portfolios will be produced each year.

The Societe Imaginaire Prize, awarded to outstanding individuals in the representative countries, will include, in addition to a cash award of DM5.000 each, travel costs, room and board, and working materials at Alzella during the residential period. The production cost of a single portfolio is estimated at USD100,000. The estimate includes the expenses and materials for an edition of one hundred signed and numbered copies, each with translation of all texts, and contained in a presentation case bound in linen. The portfolios will be donated to leading museums and collections at special annual ceremonies.


The portfolio project is also a collaboration between the Batuz Foundations and the private sector. Through supporting this pioneering project, individual contributors--corporations, agencies, and individuals--can demonstrate a commitment to international cultural collaboration; promotion of art, literature, and innovative education; support of national museums and collecting libraries; and dissemination to the viewing public.



Henry A. Millon
Dean
Center for Advanced Study
National Gallery of Art
Washington, DC, USA



Steven Mansbach
Acting Associate Dean
Center for Advanced Study
National Gallery of Art
Washington, DC, USA



Bruce A. Kaiser
Secretary
Batuz Foundation (USA), Inc.
Clearwater, Florida, USA