ICA Working Group on Art & Cartography
Progress report 2007 – 2011
June 9th 2011

The working group (WG) on Art and Cartography has been pretty active since its creation in Moscow in August 2007, as illustrated by the following list of activities. The main goal of this WG has been to encourage and explore the interactions between cartographers, artists, designers and any other area of ‘arts’ (poets, writers, dancers, gamers) who work in the various aspects of mapping. Given the interest maps raise in contemporary arts, we believe that much more can be learned through a tighter interaction between cartographers and artists in a broad sense.

2008


March. Launch of the website / Blog (http://artcarto.wordpress.com): 72 posts by 3 contributors and 30,000 visits since March 2008. This web site is definitely a great vitrine for the working group and its activities.

November. Committee meeting (Melbourne). Barbara Piatti, Sébastien Caquard & Bill Cartwright worked together on several Art & Cartography projects during a week.

2009


November. Multiple activities at the 24th ICC 2009 (Santiago)
- Working group meeting ICC 2009 (Attendance: 19 people)
- Movie screening (A historical review of maps in film edited by Giacomo Andreucci & Virtual globes were born in cinema: A century of envisioning dynamic maps in movies edited by Sébastien Caquard) ICC 2009 (Attendance: About a 100 people)
- Two Sessions ICC 2009: 8 papers (Very well attended: up to 110 people).


2010

September. Workhop. “Mapping” Environmental Issues in the City: Arts and Cartographic Cross Perspectives. Concordia University, Montréal. During three days (Sept. 8-10, 2010) 16 artists, cartographers, designers, and media practitioners internationally (Canada, USA, Europe, Australia, NZ) have developed their own project and contributed to the development of others (more details about the workshop: http://mappingworkshop.wordpress.com).
2011 (forthcoming)

July. Multiple activities at the 25th ICC 2011 (Paris)


- Tuesday July 5th (from 5pm to 6pm): A screening of the great surrealist short movie from Raul Ruiz (1980) entitled "Zig-Zag, Snakes and Ladders (a didactical fiction about cartography)". This screening will take place in the room 243 of the Palais des Congrès (more info about this movie: http://spacefiction.wordpress.com/2011/06/06/zig-zag-raul-ruiz-1980/);

- Wednesday July 6th (from 5pm to 6pm): Art and Cartography commission meeting (room 252a);

- Several paper sessions focusing on the relationships between maps, arts and culture.


Overall, since August 2007, the Art & Cartography working group has organized two international conferences (Vienna 2008 & Montréal 2010), published two books (Cartwright, Gartner & Lehn 2009; Caquard, Vaughan & Cartwright Forthcoming), two special issues of The Cartographic Journal (Caquard, Piatti & Cartwright 2009; Piatti & Hurni Forthcoming), and organized many activities during the two International conferences (Santiago 2009 & Paris 2011). We have also developed a strong international network of more than 50 artists and cartographers. We hope to be able to continue this work in the context of a new ICA commission on Art & Cartography.

Barbara Piatti, Zurich
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