

Indian RSA chapter under way

The first international chapter of the RSA to operate under the new constitution has been given the green light to operate in India this month. Based in New Delhi, the new chapter will be governed autonomously by a local board made up largely of Indian nationals in order to ensure it is truly representative of the country.

A varied group of around 20 Fellows have already registered and this figure is expected to rise to around 100 over the next four months.

"The interest has been phenomenal," said Mike Knowles, who spearheaded the initiative and will look after the Fellowship committee. "As a Fellow living in New Delhi, it has been apparent to me for some time the role that the RSA could play here."

Besides addressing the five manifesto challenges, the RSA's presence in India will play an important role in bridging the class gap between the upper and lower socio-economic groups.

Initial programmes include introducing accredited vocational courses in the arts and trades to create skilled employment.

"As we enter the 'New India' dynamic, we find ourselves in much the same place as England did at the time of the Industrial Revolution: so many wonderful opportunities and so many social problems. Poverty and the class system have to change. If they do not, then India's strive forward will halt," said Knowles.

"There is still an enormous respect for all things British here, so the RSA is in a unique position to open up debate and get people talking about these issues," he added.

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Images from Andrej Zdravič's *Riverglass* (1997), screened at the RSA's recent event entitled "Arts & Ecology: Towards an Eco-Cinema"

Arts & Ecology project turns the screen green

The Arts & Ecology programme has been developing rapidly following the huge interest generated by its launch and the Ecology and Artistic Practice event in April this year.

In September, the Watershed in Bristol was the venue for the moving image component entitled "Arts & Ecology: Towards an Eco-Cinema". A magnificent line-up was curated and chaired by international film-maker and historian, Mark Nash. Screenings on the opening evening included Rem Koolhaas's documentary on one of the fastest growing cities on the African continent, and Hubert Sauper's award-winning *Darwin's Nightmare*, which looks at the human and ecological costs of globalisation.

Day two of the event saw screenings of *American Experience: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring* (1993) and Andrej Zdravič's balletic *Riverglass* (1997). Zdravič was there to introduce his work and then joined speakers Paula Willoquet-Maricondi and David Ingram (author of *Green Screen: Environmentalism and Hollywood*

Cinema) to discuss the issues raised by their work from the perspectives of the avant-garde to Hollywood.

Delegates joined the Natural History Consortium's second COMMUNICATE conference for a screening at the IMAX. The event was also complemented by Bristol's community of eco-savvy film-makers, who turned their usual 'open screening' Bluescreen into a Greenscreen.

October's event tackles the written word at *The Times Cheltenham Literature Festival*. "Arts & Ecology: On the Page" boasts a fantastic line-up for a panel discussion asking: 'How are writers addressing the environmental challenges of our time?' Ian Jack, writer, broadcaster and editor of *Granta*, is joined by Kathleen Jamie, writer and poet and winner of the Forward Prize 2004, and Mark Lynas, author of *High Tide: News from a Warming World*.

Arts & Ecology: On the Page takes place at 4pm on 14 October 2005 at the The Times Cheltenham Literature Festival, Cheltenham Town Hall, cost £7. To book tickets please call +44 (0)1242 227 979