

Art and Sport Feature



"Olympic Sport", by Zakria Mohamed Soliman.

OLYMPIC ART AND SPORT CONTEST 2000

For the first time since 1948, the IOC, thanks to its Commission for Culture and Olympic Education, has re-established a tradition held dear to Baron Pierre de Coubertin who declared *“that it was not fate that once made writers and artists gather in Olympia at this festival of ancient sports, and also that the prestige the institution enjoyed for so long derived from this remarkable gathering”*.

As part of the new millennium celebrations, the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education invited all the NOCs to organize an ‘Olympic Art and Sport Contest 2000’. Fifty-four NOCs responded to this invitation and sent the Commission their country’s winning works (a maximum of three sculptures and three graphic

works). These works (68 sculptures and 113 graphic works) were submitted to the jury of the Contest on 28 and 29 March. This jury, which was co-chaired by the IOC President and the Chairman of the IOC Commission for Culture and Olympic Education, Mr Zhanliang He, was composed of eminent personalities from the arts world: Betty Churcher, art historian and former director of the National Gallery of Australia; Charmaine Crooks, IOC member; Jean Durry director of the French National Museum of Sport; Iker Larrauri, who designed the museography for the Museum of Ethnography in Mexico and the Olympic Museum; Luis Monreal, IOC adviser on museology; Mohamed Mohamed Selima, Egyptian journalist

and art critic; and Wang Hongian, a professor at the Beijing School of Fine Arts.

After preselecting 16 works (eight sculptures and eight graphic works), the international jury awarded three prizes and diplomas in each of the two categories. In the ‘graphic works’ category, the three prize-winning works were: *The Fire of Olympus* by Darya Moroz (Belarus), *Clinging* by Chen Chi-Ran (Chinese Taipei) and *Olympic Sport* by Zakria Mohamed Soliman (Egypt). The diplomas were awarded to: *National Wrestling* by Telman Abbasov (Azerbaijan), *March forward* by Huang Dan (People’s Republic of China), *Fast detail* by Guillermo Arriaga Maya (Colombia), *Free from power* by Chung Tai-fu (Hong Kong, China) and *Swimjam in Clarke House Orange* by Julian Jarrett (Namibia).

In the ‘sculpture’ category, the prizes went to: *Olympic Chain* by Ante Guberina (Croatia), *Baseball* by Levan Vardosanidze (Georgia) and *Sphere* by Deborah Clare Veronica West (Australia), while the diplomas were awarded to Zakir Mehtiyev (Azerbaijan) for *Wrestling Fund*, Konstantin Kostuchenko (Belarus) for *Speed*, Pío Pérez Echevarría (Spain) for *Régate*, Megan Russell (United States of America) for *Frustration* and Grzegorz Witek (Poland) for *Competitors*. The 16 works originally selected by the jury are being shared between the Olympic Museum and the Espace Arlaud, where they will be on display from 6 April to 25 June 2000. They will then be sent to Sydney to be exhibited there during the Games of the XXVII Olympiad.



(on the front row, from l. to r.) Ousmane Sow, Zhanliang He, the IOC President, Betty Churcher, Charmaine Crooks and Mohamed Mohamed Selima.
(in the background, from l. to r.) Iker Larrauri, Luis Monreal, Ching-Kuo Wu, Klaus Schormann, Wang Hongian and Jean Durry.

munication is developing thanks to sport and the art world is no longer separated from that of sport.

We were able to see this recently when we organized an international Olympic contest of graphic works and sculpture. This contest was open to all art school students as well as to all athletes affiliated to a sports federation. The level of participation in this contest (seventy NOCs organized it on a national level) has shown, and this had to be done, that sport and art currently intermingle and that

young people no longer make any negative distinction between these two spheres.

It is well-known that the IOC's authority depends to a great extent on the ongoing efforts and new initiatives in the field of culture and education. The Executive Board and the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education are well aware of their task in this area.

Indeed, the need for intercultural education has never been more apparent than in the globalized

world of today. Olympic education should become as multicultural as it is intercultural through the exploration and celebration of cultural diversity within the Olympic Movement. In a word, Olympism is the universal crossroads and the link for young people in the world, where the aspirations of each and every one of them can be found.

*IOC member, Chairman of the Commission for Culture and Olympic Education.

THE WINNING WORKS

"Olympic Art and Sport 2000 Contest"



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"Clinging", by Chen Chi-Ran.



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