

ACTION: USIS INFO: CG ECON/POLI

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 DE RUEHIA #7164 1281636  
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 R 081634Z MAY 90  
 FM USIA WASHDC  
 TO RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 8911  
 RUFHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3003  
 BT  
 UNCLAS USIA 27164

09-MAY-90 TOR: 06:47  
 CN: 20095  
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SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION AT 3RD ISTANBUL BIENNALE  
 REFERENCE: ISTANBUL 1694; OHTA LETTER 1/4/90

1. E/DB, ARTS AMERICA, WAS PLEASED TO PRESENT PAO'S LETTER, REFTTEL, AND COPIES OF PREVIOUS ISTANBUL BIENNALE CATALOGS TO FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AT ITS APRIL 24 MEETING. COMMITTEE WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE EXCELLENT COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF SOL LEWITT WALL PAINTING.

2. WE ARE PLEASED THAT COMMITTEE GAVE E/DB THE GREEN LIGHT TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT STEP. AT ITS FALL MEETING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 19, THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHICH IT CAN MAKE A MORE INFORMED DECISION ON WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL SUPPORT U.S. REPRESENTATION. MOST IMPORTANT IS ITS DESIRE TO SUPPORT A U.S. CURATOR IN DEVELOPING A PROJECT THAT WOULD WELL REPRESENT THIS COUNTRY AND ITS CONTEMPORARY CREATIVITY AT THE BIENNALE.

3. SPECIFICALLY THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING:

-- REFTTEL PARA 2 MENTIONS AN EXHIBITION OF 50-60 WORKS BY "YOUNG AMERICAN ARTISTS." WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEND AN EXHIBITION OF UP TO TEN ARTISTS, PERHAPS FEWER IF THE WORKS ARE VERY LARGE. WOULD THIS BE ACCEPTABLE?

-- IS THERE A THEME TO THE BIENNALE TO WHICH OUR SELECTION MIGHT NEED TO CONFORM? E.G. ART RELATED TO TECHNOLOGY, REPRESENTATIONAL OR NON-REPRESENTATIONAL ART, ETC?

-- WE ASSUME WORK SHOULD BE IN ONE MEDIUM I.E. PAINTING OR SCULPTURE. WOULD PHOTOGRAPHY, PRINTS, OR CRAFT BE ACCEPTABLE?

-- CAN THE BIENNALE PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE IN SHIPPING EXHIBITION OR IN HOUSING ARTISTS AND CURATOR FOR INSTALLATION AND DEINSTALLATION? SIZE OF EXHIBITION, AT 50-60 WORKS, IS FORMIDABLE, REQUIRING MAJOR CRATE CONSTRUCTION AND SHIPPING CHARGES FOR LARGER PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE.

-- POST SHOULD COMPLETE A FACILITIES REPORT FOR BOTH VENUES MENTIONED REFTTEL. (WE WILL FAX FORMS TO POST.) COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED ABOUT SECURITY, CLIMATE CONTROL, LIGHTING, FLEXIBILITY OF SPACE, CEILING HEIGHT, TO DETERMINE SCALE OF SELECTED EXHIBITION.

-- HOW ARE WORKS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES INSTALLED WITHIN THE BIENNALE AT LARGE? SEPARATELY AND IDENTIFIED AS THE REPRESENTATION FROM "X" COUNTRY, OR INSTALLED TOGETHER BY CURATOR-IN-CHARGE? WE ASSUME THAT OUR EXHIBITION, SINCE IT WILL BE IN ITS OWN SPACE, WILL BE A COHESIVE WHOLE.

-- WOULD POST DESCRIBE "MAJOR EXHIBITION" SECTION OF TWO PREVIOUS BIENNALES CITED IN REFTEL PARA 2.

-- CAN POST ANTICIPATE ANY POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES ABOUT WHICH WE SHOULD BE AWARE? CAN POST FORESEE ANY SITUATIONS WHERE POLITICAL PRESSURE OR ISSUES MIGHT EFFECT THE BIENNALE?

4. E/DB APOLOGISES FOR REQUESTING SUCH DETAILED INFORMATION, BUT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WANTS THE BEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPLY.

(E/DB)

GELB

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