The proposed conference theme is KONTAKT. The word is the same in both Polish and German, and stresses the collaborative and populist nature of the multiple. KONTAKT also implies the bridging of cultures and nations. We think of the term in the context of the connections between history and the present, connections between artists and systems of patronage, connections between curatorial practice and the artist. KONTAKT also poses the issue of globalism, nationalism and regionism in the context of and the expanding European Union. Structuring the conference around two cities from two nations will serve to provide a stereoscopic perspective on printmaking and book arts. Through the two conference sites, delegates will have an opportunity to compare and contrast the arts of Poznan and Berlin. Does this perspective help us to understand essential characteristics that printmakers from different countries have in common? How does the comparison of the print traditions of Poznan and Berlin reflect broader cultural patterns in the European Union? What challenges do print and book artists from each nation have in common? One goal of the conference is to foster stronger personal and institutional contacts between artists from different countries. Through the conference planning process we expect that printmakers in Poznan and Berlin will build important and lasting collaborative relationships. We believe that a two-city conference will also attract a larger international delegation, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe. We believe this will strengthen the future of Impact conferences.

POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

1. United Europe (common culture of the print)
2. Crossing Borders/International Exchange
3. Edges
4. Production/Reproduction (print/poster)
5. Culture/Exchange
6. Transportation/Movement
7. Students/Education (the future of printmaking)
8. Curatorial Practice (presentation, collection and representation)
9. The Future of the International Print Competition

PROPOSED DATES (2005)

Monday Sept. 5: Evening reception at Kathe Kollwitz Museum
Tuesday Sept. 6: Lectures, exhibitions and receptions at Universitat der Kunst
Wednesday Sept. 7: Demos and exhibitions at Kunsthaus Kreuzberg Bethanien, Train to Poznan departing from Ostbanhauf Station
Thursday Sept. 8: Product Fair, Lectures, Exhibitions and Receptions
Friday Sept. 9: Product Fair, Lectures, Exhibitions, Receptions, Evening Banquet
Saturday Sept. 10: Train to Berlin, Closing Print Cabaret
Sunday September 11: Conference Delegates depart Berlin
POZNAŃ-BERLIN AS CONFERENCE SITES

Poznan offers a superb location for the conference through the close proximity of the Fine Arts Academy, the National Museum, the Zamek Cultural Center, Gallery and numerous galleries and restaurants located at the old square. All of these are served by a centrally located train station and numerous hotels. We have established a strong advisory committee in Berlin that wants to see the conference with Poznan take place.

Berlin has a vital museum and gallery scene, including the Kupferstichkabinett (Print Museum) at the Kulturforum and the Kathe Kollwitz Museum. The Druckwerkstatt (print workshop) at the Kunstafft Kreuzberg Bethanien offers a superb setting for pre-conference collaborative projects as well as an exhibition venue. Additionally, the Universitut der Kunst in Berlin will organize student exhibitions and presentations. All of these conference venues are easily served by the efficient and inexpensive S-Bahn system. As an historical setting for both Dada, Fluxus and the German Expressionist, Berlin offers an opportunity to consider print practice from a broad historical perspective.

Other reasons for holding the conference in both cities include:

- Berlin offers an economical and convenient airline destination for many international travelers.
- In addition, Berlin and Poznan are separated by an inexpensive, three-hour train ride.
- The traditions of printmaking instruction in Germany and Poland share many things in common, yet are separated by language, history and culture.
- Poland will join the European Union in 2004 which will result in increased cultural and economic relations between Poland and Germany.
- A strong advisory committee composed of Germans and Poles has been established representing key cultural institutions in both Berlin and Poznan. The impact of these relationships has the potential to foster collaborations that extend well beyond the conference.

CONFERENCE COORDINATORS

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