

SPORT AND ART - ART AND SPORT

by Francisco Peris Vidal

Many countries have interesting sport museums, where their sporting history is exhibited, through the arts. Many of them become inspired, principally, by sport leaders and some directly by the National Olympic Committee of the country.

The IOC's Olympic Museum, inaugurated on 28 June 1993, is not only a majestic building, placed in a singular landscape, but it is also the perfect stage from which to contemplate Olympic History in spacious and magnificently care sections. I would like, dear ISOH colleagues, to recommend that you visit this Museum.

However, I would guess that the art world is not significantly present in the sports world. A simple investigation about this, pleads in favor of my theory, because, excepting the specialized museums of sporting art, it is exceptional to find organizations in which the two aspects are present.

I know of organizations of sporting art - in Russia, Germany, Poland, etc. - but, I maintain, they are limited. The same art galleries are not receptive to this kind of exhibition and because of this, many artists are not motivated to address the sporting art world. It is also exceptional in sports facilities - and here I mean the most important - to find artistic displays. I take into consideration not only the traditional sports installations, because the presence of sporting art is not very usual. At this point, I believe that the sports authorities have to think about this matter and even the people related with the cultural world, in order to intensify the union between art and sport.

All of us are conscious of the IOC's goodwill to ensure that the "Cultural Olympiad," held during the Olympic Games, is a successful celebration, in addition to the Olympic sports competitions. In Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC has as its President a person who definitely supports sporting/cultural projects.

And, with unconditional IOC collaboration, I have been able to carry out two projects: one, in which the sportsmen become artists (Painting, Drawing and Sculpture) taking part in the "International Biennial Sportsmen in Art," that will celebrate its VIth edition in Barcelona in 1996. Secondly, professional artists will exhibit their works with sports-related themes in the "International Biennial for Sport in the Fine Arts," which recently celebrated its XIth edition in Madrid in October 1995.

These two exhibitions are strong evidence that Sport and Art, and Art and Sport, could be perfectly complementary, bringing great possibilities in their respective areas, because, as the President Samaranch has stated, "Olympism is the sum of sport and culture."