

National Gallery of Art

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN THE VISUAL ARTS

Washington, D.C. 20565

Office of the Dean

24 August 1989

Dr. Philip S. Wilder, President
Hartwick College
Oneonta, New York 13820

Dear Dr. Wilder,

This letter supports the laudable goals that the painter Batuz has been working towards for a number of years. Batuz believes that unanticipated benefits arise when gifted individuals of acknowledgeable attainments in the cultural fields from several nations are brought together and given an opportunity to exchange views on a variety of topics of concern to them. He argues further that these unusual individuals often do not know their counterparts in other disciplines even though they may be from the same nation or even live in the same city. The superabundance of media communication has, in Batuz's eyes, resulted in reduced face to face exchange. His foundations in Germany and Argentina are designed to realize his Société Imaginaire.

Batuz intends to bring small groups of artists and scholars together from Central and Eastern Europe together with their counterparts in Latin America at new Centers in Germany and Argentina. There would be exhibitions and performances of works by some of those gathered. He expects to salt these gatherings with individuals from Europe and the U.S. Batuz supposes that those attending will, as the result of discussion at the centers, be voices in their countries to bring their concerns before the powers and the people of their nations.

Batuz would like to be able to hold occasional gatherings of these gifted persons in the United States. Meetings of Central and Eastern Europeans with Latin Americans on U.S. soil with U.S. colleagues would certainly be desirable, given the changing attitudes in the U.S. about Central and Eastern Europe and our nation's continued lip service to, but fundamental misreading of, Latin America.

Batuz's efforts, precisely because they are idealistic and elitist, deserve to be encouraged.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Millon