

# Statutes of the European Society for Aesthetics

Fribourg (Switzerland), 04.04.2009

Naples (Italy), 06.06.2024

## 1 The structure and purpose of the society

### 1.1 The name and the location of the society

An academic organisation named 'European Society for Aesthetics' (hereafter: 'ESA') exists according to the Swiss Civil Code (ZGB) Art. 60ff.

The society has its residence at the philosophy department of the University of Fribourg, Avenue de l'Europe 20, CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland.

### 1.2 The purposes of the society

The purposes of the society are:

(a) To promote philosophical and other academic research and teaching in aesthetics and the theory of art, with a strong focus on high quality research done in Europe.

(b) To inform about, and possibly coordinate, the activities of national and regional societies in Europe with similar interests and purposes.

(c) To organise regular international conferences and meetings for the discussion of topics in aesthetics, mainly with the goal to bring together researchers from different European countries.

(d) To publish, or help in the publication of, high quality research in aesthetics done by European researchers.

## 2 The members of the society

### 2.1 Institutional membership

Any society, institution or other group of people based in Europe and interested in aesthetics can become an institutional member of the ESA. In special cases, the executive committee can decide to allow institutions or groups based outside of Europe to join the ESA. Any request for institutional membership should be addressed in writing to the executive committee, which reserves the right to making the final decision on institutional membership.

### 2.2 Individual membership

Any individual person - whether European or not, or whether based in Europe or not - interested in aesthetics can become an individual member of the ESA. Any request for individual membership should be addressed in writing to the

executive committee, which reserves the right to making the final decision on individual membership.

### **2.3 The rights of members**

Assuming the payment of membership and other relevant fees, institutional members have the right to some form of notification of, or information about, their activities on the website of the ESA (assuming that the website is functional).

Assuming the payment of membership and other relevant fees, members of the institutional members of the ESA have the right to join the ESA as individual members.

Assuming the payment of membership and other respective fees (e.g., conference fees), and assuming the availability of sufficient means (e.g., free spaces), individual members have the right to attend all academic activities organised by the ESA.

The executive committee can, for good reasons, deprive certain institutional and individual members of these rights, but has to inform the members concerned about their reasons. If this happens, the members concerned can resign their membership and ask for a refund of their membership fees for the respective period. And they can request a vote on the issue if they can provide support of one fifth of the individual members, or of one fifth of the institutional members.

### **2.4 Membership and other fees**

The ESA reserves the right to introduce regular membership fees, both for institutional and for individual membership. The ESA also reserves the right to demand payment of fees for specific activities, such as the regular conferences. The amount, the possible modes of payment and other relevant issues will be determined by the executive committee, which can also - if asked for in writing - grant exceptions in a reasonable measure.

### **2.5 Cancellation of membership**

Both institutional and individual members can resign their membership at any time, simply by addressing a written request to the executive committee.

The executive committee can cancel institutional and individual membership:

- If the respective member has not paid the relevant membership fees for two consecutive years.
- If a respective request has been made by one of the other members of the ESA and has been accepted by two thirds of the individual members present (in the sense of 'presence' specified further in the article on elections). The member affected by the cancellation should be granted, to a reasonable extent, the opportunity to defend their case.

### **2.6 Liability**

Neither institutional, nor individual members are personally liable for the society's obligations.

## 3 The organs of the society

### 3.1 Organs

There are two organs of the ESA:

- The general assembly.
- The executive committee.

All members of the organs of the ESA have to be members of the ESA.

### 3.2 The general assembly and its meetings

The general assembly consists of all institutional and individual members and will meet at each of the regular ESA conferences. The executive can also organise virtual meetings which happen via the exchange of emails or other forms of online communication. All members are eligible to attend these meetings and should be informed about the agenda and be invited at least four weeks in advance.

### 3.3 The executive committee and its meetings

The executive committee serves as the executive organ. It consists of a minimum of seven and maximum of eleven individual members, among them:

- The president.
- The treasurer.
- The secretary.

Documents are signed on behalf of the Society by two of these three jointly: the president, the secretary, and the treasurer.

In the first instance, the executive committee appoints itself. After that, it is elected by the individual members of the ESA. Each member of the executive committee is elected for a term of typically, and maximally, three years.

Only the president needs to be elected directly by the individual members of the ESA. The executive committee may decide for itself who among its members will serve as treasurer and as secretary, and (if applicable) as holders of any further created offices.

No person should serve - in whichever function(s) - more than two consecutive terms in the executive committee. Ideally, each member of the executive committee should represent a different European country, and the represented countries should change, at least to some extent, with each election of new members. Individual members of the ESA count thereby as representing a certain European country if they are based in that country or possess its nationality.

The executive committee should meet at least once per year, preferably more often. Other people may be invited to the meetings, but may not vote.

## 4 The tasks of the organs of the society

### 4.1 The tasks of the executive committee

The tasks of the executive committee include:

- To take all decisions assigned to it by these statutes.
- To take all decisions concerning the structure and the running of the ESA, that are not assigned by these statutes to another office or organ of the ESA.
- To execute all decisions made concerning the structure and the running of the ESA.
- If necessary, to apply for funding with universities or European or national funding bodies.

### 4.2 The tasks of the president

The tasks of the president include:

- To organise and coordinate the meetings of the executive committee.
- To represent the ESA to the wider public.
- To communicate with societies, institutions and similar groups (e.g., funding bodies) which are not members of the ESA.
- To communicate with the members of the ESA on issues of special importance.

### 4.3 The tasks of the treasurer

The tasks of the treasurer include:

- To take care of membership issues, including keeping a list or database of all members.
- To organise the payment of membership fees.
- To keep book of the finances of the ESA.
- To keep the other members of the executive committee informed about the finances of the ESA.
- To give a brief financial report about the preceding twelve months to the general assembly once per calendar year, preferably at the meetings organised together with the regular ESA conferences.

### 4.4 The tasks of the secretary

The tasks of the secretary include:

- To inform the members about the general assemblies and other ESA activities.
- To organise the selection of papers and the determination of the programme for the regular ESA conferences and other meetings.
- To organise the selection of papers to be published with the help, and under the name, of the ESA.
- To organise the elections and other votes.

- To advertise the activities of the ESA and its institutional members.
- To run the ESA website.

#### 4.5 Appointed offices

The executive committee may canvas members and other individuals or groups for their opinion and advice. And it has the right to delegate its executive tasks, at least to a reasonable extent.

For these purposes, it may create advisory or executive offices and appoint their holders, who need not necessarily be members of the ESA. Among others, such offices may include:

- Representatives of the ESA in the different European countries and institutional members.
- Referees for the selection of papers in relation to the ESA conferences.
- Members of a commission to organise the ESA elections.
- An administrator for the ESA website.
- A vice-president (from among the members of the executive committee) to support the president in his or her tasks.
- A representative for students and student activities.

## 5 Conferences and publications

### 5.1 Conferences

The ESA aims to organise, in regular intervals, academic conferences (hereafter: 'ESA conferences') in order to promote recent research in aesthetics and the theory of art done by its members. These ESA conferences are to be organised by European academic institutions and have to take place at a European location. The executive committee determines the format and themes (if any) of the ESA conferences. Attendants to the ESA conferences are to be actively encouraged (but not required) to become members of the ESA.

The ESA may also organise or fund other meetings or conferences within Europe, given that they further some of the purposes of the society specified in the first article of these statutes. The executive committee decides which meetings or conferences to organise or fund and, if applicable, determines their format and themes.

The ESA reserves the right to establish further conditions on the attendance and the presentation of research at their conferences and meetings. These may include the payment of special fees, or the requirement to submit a written paper to a relevant ESA publication project.

### 5.2 Publications

The ESA aims to collaborate with academic publishers and journals in Europe, which publish research in aesthetics or the theory of art. This collaboration may involve encouraging and helping members of the ESA with respect to their submission of work to the publishers or journals concerned, promoting the

resulting publications on its website, or awarding a publisher or journal the status of an official ESA organ. All the respective decisions are taken by the executive committee.

The ESA also aims to publish, or help with the publication of, a selection of the papers (or research results presented in other formats) given at their conferences and meetings. The executive committee selects the papers concerned and decides on how they should be published. The resulting publications have to happen under the name of the ESA.

The members of the ESA have no right to have their work published by, or with the help of, the ESA. But they have the right to refuse such publication, unless their research has been allowed to be presented at an ESA conference or meeting only under the condition to submit a related paper to a certain publication project of the ESA.

### **5.3 Quality of research**

The ESA should be open to all traditions and schools in philosophy - including the history of philosophy - that are concerned with topics in aesthetics or the theory of art.

The ESA aims, and reserves the right, to promote research in aesthetics only if it is of a high quality according to internationally acknowledged standards (e.g., blind refereeing by experts in the field).

## **6 Formalities**

### **6.1 Elections and votes**

Only the members of the executive committee are elected. The election of a new office holder or another member of the executive committee is to be held at least four weeks before the end of the tenure of the incumbent member concerned.

Unscheduled or early elections concerning the composition of the executive committee have to be held if one of its members resigns, or if an election is requested by the executive committee, or by more than half of the individual members.

The executive committee can organise votes on other matters concerning the ESA. There is no restriction on the issues to be voted on, apart from the ones noted in these statutes.

All, and only, individual members are eligible to take part in the elections and any other votes. They have to be informed about upcoming elections or votes at least four weeks in advance. Voting can happen at the real meetings of the general assembly, or at its virtual meetings - that is, by email or other forms of online voting.

If not stated otherwise, all elections and votes are decided by simple majority of the members present at the respective meeting. In the case of email or online votes, all members replying in one way or another to the request to vote count

as being present (the expression 'present at a meeting' is used in these statutes as including this sense of 'presence'). Voting has to proceed by a secret ballot only if so requested, and only if feasible.

The results of elections and votes are binding for the executive committee and all other members concerned.

## **6.2 Changes to the statutes**

Proposals and changes to the statutes have to be presented to the general assembly for a vote - either at one of its meetings, or by other means - and must be approved by at least two thirds of all individual members present.

## **6.3 Dissolution of the society**

A request to dissolve the ESA can be made by the executive committee, by two thirds of the individual members. A proposal for dissolution has to be determined by vote at a real or virtual meeting of the general assembly. The society is dissolved, once two thirds of the individual members present at this meeting have accepted the proposal by a secret ballot. If a proposal for dissolution has been rejected, at least three months have to relapse until a new one may be voted on.

In the case of dissolution, any remaining funds of the ESA have to be spent in accordance with the purposes of the ESA. The executive committee has to organise a respective vote at the same meeting, at which the dissolution of the society has been decided.

## **6.4 Final provision**

These statutes became effective on the 04.04.2009 at the General Assembly, held in conjunction with the ESA Conference 2009 in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Two modifications in the part '3.3 The executive committee and its meetings' were made on the 06.06.2024 at the General Assembly, held in conjunction with the ESA Conference 2024 in Naples, Italy.