

Rhodes hosted the 77th IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining, 7 to 12 July 2024

The last years have strengthened the relationships of the IIW community to continue its relentless work, leading to the great success of this edition of the IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining in Rhodes, Greece, 07 to 12 July 2024, with more than 1000 attendees.

In Summary

- Meetings of IIW Commission and Groups took place 07-12 July 2024, with up to 18 sessions offered each day.
- The IIW International Conference titled “Energy infrastructures and Transportations across the seas” was held on 11 and 12 July with outstanding experts presenting the results of their scientific work and study, and 87 presentations and 17 posters presented.
- Social events included the IIW Opening and Awards Ceremony, the Young Professionals Ice Breaking event, the Welcome Reception, the Greek Evening, and the Closing Ceremony at the Gala Banquet.
- Sponsors met the welding professionals at the exhibition area, with videos, product presentations and displays.
- The IIW 2024 Digital Collection Welded Art Photographic Exhibition- Sustainable Development Goals (see [IIW-2024-Digital-Collection-1-July-2024](#)), was launched and shown throughout the event on the event application on a dedicated page.

Running the Event

The 77th IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference was hosted by the local member society of IIW, the Greek Welding Society, supported by the IIW Secretariat and IAB Management Team.

Registration started on 1st February 2024 and the conference centre was officially opened on 06 July, facilitating the participation of over 1000 people.



The 77th Annual Assembly of the IIW and the International Welding and Joining Conference took place at the Rhodos Palace Hotel, Rhodes, GREECE, July 7-12, 2024.



IIW General Assembly



Opening Ceremony



Young Professional Event



Greek Evening

At the end of the event, IIW is proud to announce that the 77th Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining has been a huge success with great participation globally and significant and prolific technical output.

Registration numbers are shown below.

Category	Number
Full Participants	466
Full Participant (Young Professional)	147
Full Participant (Students)	205
Participants to the International Conference only	25
Participants to the International Conference only (Students and Young Professionals)	17
Accompanying Persons	68
Participants to the Symposium "Intelligent Manufacturing" only	11

IIW 2024 Registration statistics

51 Countries were represented. According to the IIW Procedures, participants were grouped in delegations managed by the IIW member societies, the national welding organisations of IIW member countries.



Country	Count	Country	Count	Country	Count	Country	Count
Australia	9	Ghana	6	North Macedonia	1	Sweden	26
Austria	23	Greece	128	Norway	9	Switzerland	8
Belgium	9	Hungary	7	Palestine	2	Thailand	2
Brazil	8	India	15	Poland	11	The Netherlands	13
Bulgaria	2	Indonesia	4	Portugal	9	Turkey	10
Canada	23	Israel	1	Romania	2	Ukraine	15
China	132	Italy	22	Saudi Arabia	6	United Arab Emirates	1
Croatia	1	Japan	86	Serbia	2	United Kingdom	25
Czech Republic	6	Jordan	1	Singapore	7	United States	81
Denmark	4	Kuwait	1	Slovakia	7		
Egypt	2	Latvia	1	Slovenia	2		
Finland	28	Libya	1	South Africa	3		
France	22	Namibia	2	South Korea	68		
Germany	155	New Zealand	1	Spain	8		

Participants per country

IIW is grateful to the organizations that sponsored the event for their support.

SPONSOR	EXHIBITOR	SUPPORTER
EKME SA (Main Sponsor) SPECTRUMLAPS SA (Main Sponsor) KISWEL	ANIMA AE Cavitar Ltd. Meltio / DirectedMetal 3D SL P-Laser NV Pole EMC2 Shimadzu Europa GmbH Structural Integrity Technologies Inc. CONIK AE	MOTOR OIL HELLAS ΔΙΥΛΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ KOPINΘΟΥ Α.Ε. DESFA SA

Prestigious Awards

During the Opening Ceremony of the 77th IIW Annual Assembly of the International Institute of Welding (IIW) IIW honored the winners of prestigious IIW Awards and acknowledged their contributions to welding and joining around the world.

IIW is proud to promote and recognize distinction through its numerous prizes and awards, often sponsored by Member Societies. Many are named to pay tribute to eminent individuals who were founding fathers of IIW or champions of its global role or made significant contributions to the development and implementation of scientific and technical advances in welding and allied processes. It was the dedication and vision of these famous IIW personalities which set the stage for the organization to be recognized today as the largest and most prestigious worldwide network for the exchange of knowledge and cooperation in a wide range of joining and related technologies.

At this 77th IIW Annual Assembly, IIW Annual Awards acknowledge not only people with outstanding accomplishments or technical achievements, illustrious careers or long and meritorious service to the IIW around the world, but also encourage promising young professionals who are our future industry and Institute leaders.

Heartiest congratulations go to the 77th IIW Annual Assembly winners whose achievements and professionalism, whether at the peak of the mountains or in the foothills, are outstanding examples of determination on the pathway to excellence.

- Fellow of the IIW, awarded to Károly Jármai, Patricio Mendez, Gerhard Posch, Volker Schöppner, Chuansong Wu and Yixiong Wu
- Evgeny Paton Award, awarded to Suck-Joo Na



- Arthur Smith Award, awarded to David Fink
- Yoshiaki Arata Award, awarded to Boian Alexandrov
- Thomas Medal, awarded to Teresa Melfi
- Chris Smallbone Award, awarded to Emmanuel Afrane Gyasi
- Walter Edström Medal, awarded to John C. Lippold
- Henry Granjon cat. A Award, awarded to Rui Yu
- Henry Granjon cat. B Award, awarded to Derek Shaffer
- Henry Granjon cat. C Award, awarded to Aravindh Nammalvar Raja
- Halil Kaya Gedik Award awarded to Sergio Amancio
- Welding in the World Best Paper award, Category A: Welding Processes and Additive Manufacturing awarded to Florian Muller
- Welding in the World Best Paper, Category B: Materials and Metallurgy awarded to Nellikode Savyasachi
- Welding in the World Best Paper, Category C: Structural Integrity, Design and Fitness for Service awarded to Kalle Lipiäinen
- André Leroy Prize, awarded to Guy Brooks & Michael Pitt

The Artistic Soul of Welding 2024 Digital Collection

The 2024 welded art photographic exhibition resulted from the very successful initiative launched at the IIW Annual Assembly in 2019 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Since then, IIW already held five IIW Welded Art Photographic exhibitions in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as downloadable digital collections.

In 2024, the *Welded art Photographic exhibition Digital collection* has been linked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nations (UN).

UN has 193 countries as members and with the challenges of improving the quality of life in countries, in 2015, world leaders agreed to the implementation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aimed at low and middle-income countries. IIW has linked its National Welding Capability (NWC) Project and the SDGs so that strategies can be introduced by a country including implementing a Flagship Programme with a single global focus “To Assist the Country to Establish, Sustain and Improve Its National Welding Capability and Progress its UN Sustainable Development Goals”.

Such a Programme may have many initiatives and projects associated with it but all related to the single global focus. As such the IIW 2024 Digital Collection was developed with the cooperation and collaboration of artists and exhibits from several countries linking any masterpiece to SDGs. Further information and the full collection are available at [IIW-2024-Digital-Collection-1-July-2024](#)

The screenshot shows a digital collection page for the exhibit "Doves for Peace" by Aimee Schmelzer and Oliver Griepenburg (Switzerland). The page features a large image of a welded dove sculpture on the left. To the right, there is a text block with the following content:

Aimee Schmelzer and Oliver Griepenburg (Switzerland)

Aimee is an International Welding Specialist and formed her own company, *Artwelding*, in 2019. In collaboration with the Schweizerische Ausbildung GmbH, a family-run company supporting welding education in over 80 schools across Switzerland, Aimee developed an educational art project. Working with Oliver Griepenburg from the company, this initiative engaged students in creating welded steel peace doves mounted on a metallic world map, symbolizing global peace and harmony.

The project involved two secondary schools, a foundation for young people from the age of twelve needing support in their social, economic, and cultural integration, and a special education school for people with disabilities. 52 students and trainers aged 12 to 52 participated.

This project not only enhanced the students' technical skills, but also promoted awareness of their work's broader social impact, aligning with the IIW's efforts to use welded art to highlight significant social themes, including education and the pursuit of peace.

The Exhibit is intended to be auctioned, with proceeds donated to projects promoting the integration of students and people with disabilities into the metalworking field.

Contact Info
 Email: aimee.schmelzer@artwelding.ch
 Web: www.artwelding.ch

Exhibit "Doves for Peace"
 Steel sheets (0.8 to 3.0 mm thick) were used for the doves and 3 mm thick steel sheets for the world map and background.

Students cut the steel sheets using a plasma cutter and shaped them with angle and belt grinders and files. The continents were welded using 3 mm round or square steel rods with Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW).

People with disabilities used a hobiler machine for cutting and a spot welding machine for assembly.

All participants painted the doves white and added their names for personal identification with the project.

The continent plates were screwed onto the background sheet with a 20 mm gap for depth.

The welded artworks were welded onto a 3 mm CNS sheet, polished and engraved with designs or inscriptions, with Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) requiring precise parameters and gas settings.

Dimensions of Exhibit
 120 cm long x 75 cm wide x 10 cm deep

At the bottom of the page, there are navigation arrows and the text "Welded Art Photographic Exhibition - IIW 2024 Digital Collection".

IIW 2024 Welded art Photographic Exhibition Digital Collection



Future IIW Events

IIW is looking forward to gathering the welding, joining and associated processes community together at upcoming Regional and International Congresses and Associated Events held in cooperation with its partners, and the 78th IIW Annual Assembly and International Conference on Welding and Joining which will take place from 22nd to 27th June 2025 at Magazzini del Cotone (Genova, ITALY), Europe's leading destination for business, leisure and entertainment.



The 78th Annual Assembly of the IIW and the International Welding and Joining Conference will take place at the Magazzini del Cotone, Genoa, ITALY, June 22-27, 2025.

In 2025, the event will be held in conjunction with the Bi-annual meeting “National Welding days”, organised by the Italian Institute of Welding (IIS - Istituto Italiano della Saldatura), gathering the Italian community of Welding and allied processes with participation that has been stably over 1000 individuals. With this joined event, the IIW and IIS are confident that any participation goal will be overcome.