



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



ART
LAB

F O R
H U M A N
R I G H T S
A N D
D I A L O G U E

**ART-LAB DESIGN
THINKING JAM**

26 FEBRUARY 2020 • MARTIN BODMER FOUNDATION • GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

More than 70 million people have been forced from their homes around the world. This includes nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18 (UNHCR, 2019). An estimated 740 million people still live in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.90 a day¹. High poverty rates are often found in small, fragile and conflict-affected countries².

How can we restore dignity for those people who were left behind? How can we facilitate national reconciliation and bring together fragmented societies? How can we prevent violence in post-conflict contexts and amongst excluded communities?

Launched by UNESCO in December 2018, on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³, *Art-Lab for Human Rights and*

Dialogue is a laboratory of artistic practices involving those who were left behind and those who have left everything behind, refugees, displaced persons, populations in post-conflict zones, or who are continually marginalized, such as people in extreme poverty. Art-Lab compiles, tests, analyzes and synthesizes initiatives that solicit cultural and artistic approaches to enable marginalized people to recover their human dignity and their voice, in order to develop training tools and share practices that contribute to their re-integration into society. Therefore, Art-Lab aims at enhancing the use of the arts and culture in all their forms, by humanitarian and development operators, as well as public policy-makers.

UNESCO joins the UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency) and the OHCHR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

1 Read : L'observatoire des inégalités, 29 décembre 2019 : <https://www.inegalites.fr/L-extreme-pauvrete-dans-le-monde-recule#nb2-1>

2 SDGs' website : <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

3 In reference to the UNESCO-National Theatre of Chaillot (Paris, France) event of 11 December 2018, watch the video of the event's highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svOZW0mXNnw&list=ULzbZon8jDZJE&index=870>



Rights) on the tenth anniversary of the mandate on cultural rights, to organize an *Art-Lab Design Thinking Jam*, on 26 February 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Martin Bodmer Foundation, on the margins of the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

The Art-Lab Design Thinking Jam will consist of a one-day co-creation workshop on the contents and types of tools that could support humanitarian and development operators in their appropriation of artistic and cultural approaches to build mutual understanding with the most disadvantaged.

Former refugees, engaged artists, humanitarian foundations, United Nations staff in the field, UNESCO Chairs, experts in cultural rights, heads of cultural structures and contemporary art foundations - all will pool their creative minds to propose innovative activities based on the realities on the ground.

Participants will be dispatched successively into small groups and plenary sessions, thus drawing on their diverse expertise to achieve the expected result: the development of a prototype tool, or a service, intended for humanitarian and development operators, to sensitize them on the significant impact of the arts and

to involve the most disadvantaged populations in the arts.

METHODOLOGY

During a first immersion phase, the participants will appreciate the diversity and the relevance of inclusive artistic approaches in building resilience and enabling the realization of human rights, including cultural rights, among victims of discrimination and marginalization, and in enhancing dialogue and empathy between the operators in the Field and the persons they work with. Cultural operators and artists will also address the obstacles encountered and the conditions necessary for the development of artistic practices. Representatives of organizations working with these people (the UNHCR, the Red Cross, etc.) will inform the participants about their structural environment and the contexts in which they work, as well as the reality of migrant, displaced or extremely poor people.

The groups will then specify precisely the problem they will have to address together, specifically: why the arts and culture, whose powers are transformative for people in precarious situations, are not used more often?

During the ideation phase, participants will create and focus on solutions that respond to the



issue. This phase will be followed by the elaboration of a prototype, assuming the identification of the type of tool(s), documents, their formats, their outlines likely to be developed to enable organizations to better integrate art and culture into their work, for the purposes of social reintegration and citizen participation of the most deprived.

Finally, the participants will evaluate, during a piloting phase, whose scope and duration will be defined jointly, the potential of the solutions developed during the Design Thinking Jam, in terms of desirability, feasibility and sustainability, taking into account the different fields of expertise shared.

This workshop will also provide an opportunity to establish a solid network of institutions involved alongside the OHCHR, the UNHCR and UNESCO in this action.

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The workshop will begin with a visit to the “War and Peace” exhibition at the Martin Bodmer Foundation⁴, commissioned in partnership with the United Nations Organization (UN Geneva) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). It raises crucial questions related to Art-Lab’s themes, notably on the protection of civilian populations from the ravages of war, at the intersection of diplomacy, humanitarianism and politics, raising also the role of culture in reconstruction processes.

4 War and Peace, 5 October 2019-1 March 2020, Martin Bodmer Foundation, <https://fondationbodmer.ch/en/temporary-exhibitions/>



AGENDA

9.00 a.m.	Guided tour of the “War and Peace exhibition”, Martin Bodmer Foundation
10.00 a.m.	Coffee and croissants
10.30 a.m.	Welcoming words by OHCHR
10.40 a.m.	Presentation of the objectives of the workshop by UNESCO, its steps and its co-design methodology. A history of engagement with refugees by UNHCR.
10.50 a.m.	Icebreaker – getting to know each other
11.15 a.m.	EMPATHY AND IMMERSION PHASE: Description of the end users’ journeys (refugees, marginalized, post-conflict contexts) Good practices on the transformative power of the arts for the advancement of human rights and dignity
12.15 pm	DEFINITION PHASE: Collective decision on, and formulation of a main problem statement, e.g.: although the impact of the arts has been amply demonstrated, it is yet not naturally used amongst the most underprivileged as a social reintegration factor
1.00 p.m.	Lunch break
2.00 p.m.	Feed-back from the morning session, recap on the status of the design thinking process engaged.



2.15 p.m.	IDEATION PHASE:
	The teams come up with as many ideas as possible by replying to the problem statement, e.g.: how might we invite the humanitarian and development operators to engage refugees, deprived people and people living in post-conflict areas in artistic practices more often? What if they were aware of the power of the arts? What could we do? What would the best tool look like? Joint selection of the best idea.
3.30 p.m.	RAPID "PROTOTYPING":
	The teams create a prototype of the most popular idea (in the form of a storyboard, outline of a scenario for a video, a wireframing, etc.) keeping in mind: how the life of the target user would be with the new service or product in place.
4.15 p.m.	TESTING PHASE:
	Are the prototypes solving a relevant problem and is the proposed solution desirable? Each prototype will then be pitched for one minute. Adjustments are made, based on feedbacks.
4.45	WRAP UP on the solution created. Commitments from the stakeholders: stating timeframe and content.
5.30 p.m.	Conclusions of the workshop



PARTICIPANTS

ENGAGED ARTISTS

- Taigüe Ahmed | Choreographer | Ndam Se Na & AAD | Tchad
- Edward Muallem | Ashtar Theatre | Palestine
- Carmen Mariscal | Visual Artist | Mexico
- Stefano Collizzolli | Zalab | Italy
- Rania Kinge | Designer | MadebyWomen association | Syria/Switzerland

EXPERTS & RESEARCHERS

- Farida Shaheed | Director of Shirkat Gah women's resource centre | Lahore, Pakistan
- Cynthia Cohen | UNESCO Chair | Brandeis University | United States
- Goran Bozicevic | Director of Miramida Centar, Regional Peacebuilding Exchange | Istria, Croatia
- Jean-Pierre Chrétien-Goni | Researcher and Artistic Director | Paris, France
- Ameer Shaheed | Environmental health researcher, communications consultant, and cultural operator | Geneva

CULTURAL OPERATORS AND ACTIVISTS ENGAGED IN THE FIELD

- Basma El Husseiny | Founder & Director | Action for Hope | Founder & Director | Beirut, Lebanon | Mosul, Iraq



- Sandrine Mathevon | Director | Jacques Franck Cultural Center | Brussels, Belgium
- Fayrouz Tamimi | Icebreaker network | Stockholm, Sweden
- Emilie Georget | Executive Director | Clowns sans Frontières | France

CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OPERATING IN THE FIELD

- Gervanne Leridon | Founders & Directors | African Artists for Development
- Matthias Persson | Director of Residencies | The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation | Senegal | Ireland | USA
- Barbara Ellenberger | Co-Director | artasfoundation
- Jacques Berchtold | Director | Martin Bodmer Foundation | Geneva | Switzerland (tbc)

UN AGENCIES AND INTERGOVERNEMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNESCO

- Vincent Defourny | Director | UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva
- Amina Hamshari | Programme Specialist | Intercultural Dialogue/Art-Lab | Social and Human Sciences Sector | HQs
- Ke Leng | Programme Specialist | Focal point for Arts Education | Culture Sector | HQs

OHCHR

- Beatriz Balbin | Chief | Special Procedures Branch
- Dragana Korljan | Coordinator | Justice, protection and Social Rights Unit | Special Procedures Branch



- Johanne Bouchard | Human Rights Officer | Special Procedures Branch

UNHCR

- Tamar Joanian, Protection Officer | Community Based Protection | Division of International Protection
- Claude Marshall | Refugee Sports Coordinator | Private Sector Fund Raising Sector

UNHCR OFFICE FOR SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN

- Lucie Lovis | Senior external relations assistant

IOM

- Jobst Koehler | Senior Integration and Migrant Training Specialist | Geneva | Switzerland

OBSERVERS/CO-FACILITATORS OF THE WORKSHOP

- Raghad Fathaddin | Intercultural Dialogue/Art-Lab Trainee | Social and Human Sciences Sector | HQs
- Barbara Stiubiener Abrahao | Intercultural Dialogue/Art-Lab Intern | Social and Human Sciences Sector | HQs
- Noor Kayyal | Trainee | Arts Education | Culture Sector | HQs

PROFILES

ENGAGED ARTISTS



TAIGUE AHMED | Choreographer | Ndam Se Na & African Artists for Development | Chad

Dancer and choreographer, Taïgué Ahmed is the artistic director of Ndam Se Na, an association founded in Chad in 2005. Trained in traditional African dance, Taïgué Ahmed discovered contemporary dance through the choreographer Julie Dossavi in 2003. He then furthered his training at the École des Sables in Senegal and at the Centre National de la Danse in Pantin, France. He has launched a number of sociocultural and artistic projects for the young people of N'Djamena and outlying areas, and for refugees living in camps in southern Chad. In 2009, he created his one-man show, *Crache mon histoire*, which he toured around France and Africa. He is the creator of performance pieces such as *Jardin des délices* (Garden of Delights) [2011], *Abbanay* (My Father) [2014], and *Waignedeh* (Tomorrow) [2018]. In 2013, he presented the work of Ndam Se Na at the University of Houston (United States of America). Since 2012, he has been regularly holding conferences and workshops for young immigrants in Canada. Since 2014, he has been working on sociocultural projects with theatres and institutions in Germany, which help refugees integrate into society. Taïgué Ahmed has expanded his professional network through his collaborations with researchers, anthropologists, and sociologists from England and France.

► <https://vimeo.com/276719044>



EDWARD MUALLEM | Ashtar | Theatre | Director/Trainer/
Actor | Palestine

Edward Muallem holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre studies. He was one of the founders of the El-Hakawati Theatre in 1977. In 1991, he co-founded ASHTAR Theatre with Iman Aoun, where he is currently the General Director, as well as an actor, director and drama trainer. Since 1994 he has been leading drama workshops with children and youth, and since 2004 he has led several workshops in the Forum Theatre technique locally, regionally and internationally. Between 2007 and 2015, he was the director of the "International Theatre of Oppressed Festival", which was organized by the ASHTAR Theater in Palestine.

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eu5Dinvkjeg>



CARMEN MARISCAL | Visual Artist | Mexico

Carmen Mariscal is a Mexican artist, born in 1968, in California (United States). She lives and works in Paris (France).

She works through photography, installations, videos, sculptures and staging. Her work has been exhibited in countries including France, Spain, the United States, the Netherlands, Russia and Germany.

She studied at the Winchester School of Art. In 1994 she graduated and presented her work *Soy* at the History Museum of Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. She returned to Mexico where she taught and worked as a plastic artist. During this period, she worked in a hospital centre with young bulimic and anorexic women. She then returned to live in Paris. The body and memory are the central themes of her work, which is intimate and sensitive. Christine Frérot describes how Carmen Mariscal deals with the "body" in her works. She talks of "a dematerialization and a transfiguration of carnal evidence, a distance and a diversion from physical reality by the symbol, the consciousness of time, the desire or the concern to communicate the cultural dimension of their sex". It transposes the intimate and family sphere to the cultural sphere.

► <https://www.carmenmariscal.com/>

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFX9M0SxvTg>



STEFANO COLLIZZOLLI | Zalab | Italy

Stefano Collizzolli (Padua, 1978) is a participatory video trainer and author of documentary cinema. His work has brought him to Italy, Palestine, Tunisia, Senegal and the Dominican Republic.

He has a PhD in sociology of communication from the University of Padua and his speciality is visual methodologies. He is a founding member of the ZaLab association.

ZaLab is an association of five filmmakers: Matteo Calore, Stefano Collizzolli, Andrea Segre, Sara Zavarise, Michele Aiello. Its aim is the production, distribution and promotion of social documentaries and cultural projects. The stories arise from participatory video laboratories. Marginalized people, who otherwise would not have the means to express themselves, through our laboratories become authors of their own stories. ZaLab documentaries can emerge either from these laboratories or from an individual experience of an author.

► <http://www.zalab.org/en/>



RANIA KINGE | Designer | President | MadebyWomen association | Syria/Switzerland

MadebyWomen is an association that aims to improve the livelihoods of internally displaced women in conflict zones through training them on how to produce and sell jewelry and crafts online.

We are a team of passionate people whose goal is to improve everyone's life through disruptive products. We build great products to solve your business problems. The products are designed for small to medium size companies willing to optimize their performance.

► <https://www.raniakinge.com/collections/i-love-syria>

EXPERTS & RESEARCHERS



FARIDA SHAHEED | Director of Shirkat Gah women's resource centre | Lahore, Pakistan

Farida Shaheed is a Pakistani sociologist and feminist human rights activist. She was appointed United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (2009-2015). She now heads the Shirkat Gah women's resource centre in Pakistan, and is known for her extensive work on gender and class analysis, in Pakistan and globally. Shaheed has over 25 years of research and activist experience, using a gender and feminist lens on the issues of rural development, labour, culture, religion and the state. She has particularly focused on promoting cultural rights for marginalized communities, including women, the impoverished, and religious and ethnic minorities. Shaheed is also an expert in international, regional and national negotiations, including within the United Nations and Pakistan.

Shaheed is a founding member of the Pakistan women's rights network, Women's Action Forum (WAF) and a member of the transnational feminist network Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML).

► <http://shirkatgah.org>



CYNTHIA COHEN | UNESCO Chair | Brandeis University | United States

Cynthia Cohen is Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts and Director of IMPACT - Imagining Together.

She leads action/reflection research projects, and writes and teaches about work at the nexus of the arts, culture, justice and peace. She directed the Brandeis University/Theatre Without Borders collaboration Acting Together, co-edited the Acting Together on the World Stage anthology and co-created the related documentary and toolkit. She directs ReCAST, Inc., a non-profit organization partnering with Brandeis and New Village Press on the dissemination of Acting Together resources.



Cohen has written extensively on the aesthetic and ethical dimensions of peacebuilding. Cohen previously directed the international fellowship program Recasting Reconciliation through Culture and the Arts, which produced an anthology by that name. She teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Cohen was the founding director of the Oral History Center in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has facilitated coexistence efforts involving participants from the Middle East, the United States, Central America and Sri Lanka.

- ▶ Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, Brandeis University:
<http://brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/>
- ▶ IMPACT- Imagining Together: Platform for Arts, Culture and Conflict Transformation:
<http://brandeis.edu/ethics/peacebuildingarts/impact/index.html>



GORAN BOZICEVIC | Director of Miramida Centar,
Regional Peacebuilding Exchange | Istria, Croatia

Goran Bozicevic is co-founder and current director of Miramida Centar – Regional Peacebuilding Exchange in Groznan-Grisignana (Istria, Croatia). A science teacher by vocation, he has been active in peacebuilding since 1993, working across the post-Yugoslav region since 1996. As a trainer in non-violent conflict transformation, he works in divided communities with people with different values, for example in the Volunteer Project Pakrac, which he co-founded and coordinated (1993-1995). In 1996, he co-founded the Centre for Peace Studies in Zagreb, of which he also was the founding director (1996-1999) and where he continues to teach. He has been actively involved in Dealing with Past issues since 2002, when he started serving as the Representative in the post-Yugoslav countries of Quaker Peace & Social Witness's Dealing with the Past Programme (2002-2006). Goran was born in 1962 in Zadar (Croatia), married in Skopje (Macedonia) in 2001, and is father of Luna and Vladimir Sol. With his family, he lives between Groznan and Skopje.

- ▶ https://www.linkedin.com/checkpoint/challengesV2/AQHL2VZcRskSWwAAAW_YAg2UGhRtexA0xN71_rfL1wMfYnc-cMg1lNFZiJ9kjj5ooqEGQp3BBQX4x1vQ4Yle8QAQg9EJVzWTgpg



JEAN-PIERRE CHRÉTIEN-GONI | Researcher and Artistic Director | Paris, France

Jean-Pierre Chrétien-Goni is a theatre director and anthropologist, graduate engineer from the École des Mines, and holds a PhD in philosophy.

He founded and directed three successive companies from 1987 onwards and mainly works on the themes of imprisonment: prisons; psychiatric hospitals; ghettos; migrant hostels; and all areas of social deprivation. This leads him to explore, naturally, all forms of explosions and imaginary exits that are born there. Firmly convinced of the need for creation to invest all these “off-scenes” of art and culture, he seeks to invent “with” and not only “for” the audience. He has staged some fifty shows. In 2008, he opened, with a collective of artists, a “free zone of art and creation: Le Vent se Lève !” in Paris, where the utopia of shared creation and open art is being developed by bringing together professional artists and people who “pass through”, to designate those who find themselves “out of touch” with the world, displaced or enclosed, all with their shares of vulnerability. Le Vent se Lève ! also works “outside its walls”, in detention, in migrant workers’ hostels, and with exiled people.

Chrétien-Goni is also the author of books and articles on the anthropology of art and culture, as well as on issues of political philosophy. He teaches anthropology of culture, theories of artistic action, and theatre at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris. He accompanies local authorities and several Popular Education Federations on the implementation of their cultural policies. He also collaborates with the Culture 21 Network on the implementation of Human Cultural Rights. He is Vice-President in charge of Cultural Rights within the Paris Federation of the Education League.

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsV5v59gMsQ>



AMEER SHAHEED | Environmental health researcher, communications consultant, and cultural operator | Geneva

Ameer Shaheed, PhD, is an environmental health researcher, communications consultant, and cultural operator who is most comfortable at the interface between science, culture, and international development. He is particularly interested in the role of cultural interventions and creative thinking in addressing humanitarian and development issues. Growing up in Geneva and working with multilateral

agencies, governments, and the private sector in over 10 African and Asian countries allowed him to experience a wide range of cultures and contexts. His latest mission was in Mali, where he spent three years working on a national health awareness campaign that relied significantly on cultural media. During this time, he was also involved in music as an artist, producer, and event manager; a youth-empowerment television show; and designing art therapy classes.

ENGAGED CULTURAL OPERATORS AND ACTIVISTS



BASMA EL HUSSEINY | Founder & Director | Action for Hope | Beirut, Lebanon | Mosul, Iraq

Basma El Husseiny is a cultural manager, an activist for social change and an expert in cultural governance. For the past 30 years, she has supported independent cultural projects and organizations in the Arab region. In 2004, after acting as Arts Manager of the British Council in Egypt (1988-1998) and the Media, Arts & Culture Programme Officer at the Ford Foundation's office in the Middle East and North Africa (1999-2003), she founded Al Mawred Al Thaqafy (Culture Resource), the first non-governmental regional cultural organization in the Arab region. This organization is responsible for the first Arabic cultural management training programme and the first cultural policy research and development programme in the Arab region, working across music, literature, theatre and plastic and audio-visual arts. In this role, she initiated and co-founded the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), the region's first independent cultural foundation. Basma is currently leading Action for Hope, based in Beirut, which started as a response to the drastic consequences of the conflict in Syria and to "the cultural, social and psychological needs of distressed and displaced communities". Action for Hope has pioneered cultural relief programmes and designed new and alternative models in arts education and artistic production for refugee and marginalized communities.



Action for Hope
العَمَلُ لِلأَمَلِ

► <http://www.act4hope.org/>



SANDRINE MATHEVON | Director | Jacques Franck Cultural Center | Brussels, Belgium

As a place of meeting, dialogue and cultural debate, the programming of the Jacques Franck Cultural Center is articulated along two directional axes: strong pre-established themes and the realities of the daily life of the inhabitants.

The Centre's aim is to disseminate quality works, favouring contemporary creation, particularly the performing arts, in the form of artist residencies, co-productions or partnerships. This planning is part of an overall cultural project that encourages the cross-fertilization of cultures and generations. The democratization of access to culture is ensured in particular by a pricing policy that seeks to ensure access to all activities by different categories of users.

Finally, the policy of Jacques Franck contributes to maintaining and developing creation in society, allows exchanges between the different generations and close relations with the network of associations present in the Saint-Gilles area. It also encourages the de-compartmentalization of artistic and cultural practices and thus participates in the development of a cultural centre spreading throughout the Commune and the Brussels-Capital Region.

► <https://www.lejacquesfranck.be/>



FAYROUZ TAMIMI | Icebreaker network | Stockholm, Sweden

Author. Public Speaker. Award-winning novelist. Journalist. Immigrated to Sweden from Jordan in 2013.

Based in Sweden, she works as an intercultural consultant, using the power of culture to solve social issues. At the Nordic level, she works with policymakers on inclusion in the cultural sector. As a cultural producer, she designs interventions that enable organization to achieve their objectives via arts and culture. She founded and managed the 'Immigrants Stand Up Comedy Network', and the 'Icebreaker: The International Artists and Cultural Creators Hub in South Sweden', and '% Buisness; the business accelerator for the highly skilled entrepreneurs with non-European background'.

Some of the recent projects she worked with:



'An Inclusive Cultural Sector in the Nordics': a project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers and driven by Arts Council Norway to identify challenges and find ways to create a more inclusive cultural sector.

'Cultural Diversity in South Sweden': a project funded by Arts Council Sweden and driven by The Cultural Management of South Sweden Government, to assess the potential and needs of the artists and cultural creators with non-Swedish background.

► <http://fairooztamimi.se/>



EMILIE GEORGET | Executive Director | Clowns sans Frontières | France

A graduate of Political Science, in the field of international cultural exchanges, Émilie worked in the state education sector in Argentina, then for French diplomacy and cultural cooperation in Colombia and Costa Rica, before joining the Caravan of Ten Words, a Lyon-based association of cultural players from French-speaking civil society in 2013 as director. In 2017, she continued her journey, which mixes the cultural and the international by joining Clowns Without Borders. Clowns Sans Frontières is an artistic and humanitarian organization, which operates around the world (for example in Madagascar, Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Ethiopia) to provide moral and emotional support through live entertainment to populations affected by humanitarian crises.



- <https://www.clowns-sans-frontieres-france.org/>
- Annual report (2018): https://www.clowns-sans-frontieres-france.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/csf-rapport_annuel-2018_vf_planche-bd.pdf
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0qbLHDmyFU&feature=youtu.be>

CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS OPERATING IN THE FIELD



GERVANNE LERIDON | Co-Founder & Director | African Artists for Development

Represented by

KIESE-DEBORAH MAKOUTA | Officer in charge of development

African Artists for Development (AAD) started with a deep-seated conviction: contemporary African artists' commitment to development projects is one of the best ways to secure a better future for the continent.

Set up in 2009 by Gervanne and Matthias Leridon in response to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the AAD endowment fund backs community development projects associated with works by contemporary African artists. ECOSOC, one of the six main bodies of the United Nations, granted special consultative status to AAD in 2013.

Through this commitment AAD intrinsically links contemporary art and local development initiatives by promoting not one and the other but one in the other. The goals of AAD projects are to spur sustainable economic and social development, increase well-being, boost living standards and change thought patterns by relying more on the effects of levers than on the size of budgets.

AAD provides the impetus and financing necessary for the maturation and consolidation of development projects and related art initiatives, but always rejects those limited to mere handouts. AAD projects are intended for the short/medium term; the point is to catalyse actions, not run them.

AAD mixes worlds and confronts the economic and corporate realms with that of NGOs and contemporary African art through unlikely commitments that spawn incredible adventures. Breaking down boundaries between areas that would normally have little or nothing in common depends on encounters, exchanges, mutual enrichment and bringing different kinds of people and skills together.



▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-5cpCJF6M0>

▶ <http://aad-fund.org/?lang=en>



MATTHIAS PERSSON | Director of Residencies | The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation | Senegal | Ireland | USA

In 1971, Josef Albers established a not-for-profit organization to further “the revelation and evocation of vision through art.” Today, this organization — the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation — is devoted to preserving and promoting the enduring achievements of both Josef and Anni Albers, and the aesthetic and philosophical principles by which they lived. It serves as a unique centre for the understanding and appreciation of the arts and of all visual experience — with the combined legacies of Josef and Anni Albers at its heart. The Albers Foundation main office and the archives are located on a beautiful woodland site in Bethany, Connecticut, and has its European office in Paris.

The Foundation conserves the Albers’ art and carries out its mission by working on exhibitions and publications, primarily focused on the art of Josef and Anni Albers; assisting with research; and supporting education. The Albers Foundation has strong ties with Senegal where it works with the Le Korsa NGO, founded by The Albers Foundation’s Director Nicholas Fox Weber, on medical, educational, and cultural projects. In 2015 Thread was established, serving as a cultural hub in the village of Sinthian, near Tambacounda, and as a residency programme for local and international artists. Thread also has agricultural programmes and has initiated beekeeping and honey production run by local farmers.



► <https://albersfoundation.org/>

Apart from Thread, the Foundation also has artists’ studios in Connecticut, USA and in Ireland for visiting artists who exemplify the seriousness of purpose that characterized both Anni and Josef Albers. All three residencies are designed to provide time, space and, to some extent, solitude. Residencies are awarded by invitation and by application.



BARBARA ELLENBERGER | artasfoundation
| Co-Director

artasfoundation, the Swiss foundation for art in conflict regions, initiates its own art projects, accompanies their realization and studies how to provide room for art can promote conflict meditation and peace-building. It is an independent, politically unaffiliated, active foundation. Established in 2011, it is financed by private contributions. artasfoundation contributes to the reconstruction of societies in the wake of military aggression, civil war and violent conflicts. It explores how diplomatic conciliation processes and peacebuilding mediation can be supported by specific artistic interventions. artasfoundation networks people and organizations that are involved in peacebuilding and conflict mediation by means of art. It studies this field of activity and reflects on its own work.

artasfoundation

► <https://www.artasfoundation.ch/en/>



JACQUES BERCHTOLD | Director | Martin Bodmer
Foundation | Geneva | Switzerland.

The Bodmer Foundation is a library and museum specialized in manuscripts and precious editions. It is located in Cologny, Switzerland just outside Geneva.

Also known as Bibliotheca Bodmeriana (or Bodmer Library), it is a Swiss heritage site of national significance. The library was established by Martin Bodmer and is famous as the home of the Bodmer Papyri. Some of these papyri are among the oldest remaining copies of the New Testament. Some manuscripts are written in Greek, others in Coptic (e.g. Papyrus Bodmer III). The first of the manuscripts was purchased in 1956 (Papyrus Bodmer II – P66). It also houses a copy of the Gutenberg Bible.

► <https://fondationbodmer.ch/en/>

► The War and Peace exhibition:
<https://fondationbodmer.ch/en/temporary-exhibitions/>

UN AGENCIES AND INTERGOVERNEMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNESCO



VINCENT DEFOURNY | Director | UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva



AMINA HAMSHARI | Programme Specialist | Intercultural Dialogue/Art-Lab | Social and Human Sciences Sector | Headquarters



KE LENG | Programme Specialist | Focal point for Arts Education | Culture Sector | Headquarters

OHCHR



BEATRIZ BALBIN | Chief | Special Procedures Branch



DRAGANA KORLJAN | Coordinator | Justice, protection and Social Rights Unit | Special Procedures Branch



JOHANNE BOUCHARD | Human Rights Officer | Special Procedures Branch

UNHCR HQS | GENEVA | SWITZERLAND



TAMAR JOANIAN | Community-Based Protection Officer | Community-Based Protection Unit



LISA HOLMBERG | Associate Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer, Division of Resilience and Solutions (MADE51 initiative)



CLAUDE MARSHALL | Refugee Sports Coordinator | Private Sector Fund Raising Sector



UNHCR SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN



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<https://en.unesco.org/news/art-lab-dialogue-world-artists-human-rights>

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