Peer-to-peer webinar

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER
RELIGIOUS OR BELIEF MINORITY ARTISTS, VOICE, AND PROTEST

JOIN THE WEBINAR ON
26 MAY 2021 | 14.00 - 16.00 CET

Agenda

Moderators: Derrick León Washington (UN Human Rights Office Senior Minority Fellow) and Noor Obeid (Freemuse)

Welcome (3’)

Introduction (10’)

Paulo David, Chief, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Dr. Srirak Plipat, Executive Director, Freemuse

Keynote Presentation (8’)

Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights
Panel discussion (40’)

- Yuliya Lanina
  Jewish artist born in Moscow and who arrived in the U.S. as a political refugee. She creates alternate realities where the flawed and broken create spaces of healing intergenerational trauma.
  http://www.yuliyalanina.com/

- Mazen Khaddaj
  Lebanese artist from a Druze background who performs complex rituals to bridge space, traditions, and alternative ways of believing.
  https://www.instagram.com/mazenkhaddajart/?hl=en
  http://www.mazenkhaddaj.com/

- Órion Lalli
  Openly gay, HIV positive multidisciplinary artist who celebrates marginalized bodies by mixing the sacred and the secular in imaginative ways.
  https://www.instagram.com/orionlalli/?hl=en
  https://www.orionlalli.com.br/

- Rita Dewan
  Member of the Baul religious minority and musical tradition who sings about love that transcends specific belief systems.
  https://youtu.be/AVF9n87bXs8

Panelists will share abbreviated footage of their work and discuss their art in relation to the themes of the webinar. The presentations highlight art as a reflection of personal truth and a form of protest: they will explore how artists from religious, spiritual or belief minorities have challenged beliefs, questioned social and religious norms, and confronted censorship (~8 minutes each).

Question-and-answer (12’)

Closing Remarks (5’)

Karima Bennoune, UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights

Conclusions and next steps (8’)

Paige Collings, Global Advocacy and Campaigns Coordinator, Freemuse

Claude Cahn, Human Rights Officer, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

Close (2’)
When:  26 May 2021
8:00am-9:30pm (New York City) / 2:00pm-3:30pm (Geneva)

Register online: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nh4q3yXpRHCpgcn-qZLHmA

This webinar is the second in a series of events supporting minority artists, voice, and protest. It brings together artists from religious or belief minorities worldwide to present artwork on the freedom of artistic expression. The first such event convened earlier in 2021 and focused on artists from across a range of minority communities in the United States, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This second webinar aims at shifting the discussion among and between communities and individuals, including in circumstances where artists may be threatened by anti-blasphemy or anti-apostasy laws, as well as by other forces limiting civic space. It also aims to deepen OHCHR and the UN system’s engagement with art and artists as a powerful player in discourse and action on human rights. Discussion will include examining intersectional aspects and use of peer-to-peer methodologies.

The event will take place in English, with Spanish, Portuguese, Bangla, Arabic and Sign Language (English) interpretation provided.

A recording of the webinar will be made public.

Background

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights, www.ohchr.org) is the leading UN entity on human rights. We represent the world’s commitment to the promotion and protection of the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Freemuse (www.freemuse.org) is an independent international non-governmental organisation advocating for freedom of artistic expression and cultural diversity. Freemuse has United Nations Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) and Consultative Status with UNESCO. Freemuse operates within an international human rights and legal framework which upholds the principles of accountability, participation, equality, non-discrimination and cultural diversity.

Resources

- UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/SRCulturalRightsIndex.aspx