

A black and white line drawing of several people in conversation. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a pink speech bubble above his head is looking towards the right. To his right, a woman is gesturing with her hands while speaking. In the background, other figures are partially visible, including a woman on the left and a man on the right. A large yellow circle is centered over the group, containing the main text.

#Conversations

Days for a creative Europe

2019 Edition

(un)easy alliances

September 4 and 5
Anis Gras, Arcueil



Europe
Créative

Relais
Culture
Europe

What **common cultural foundation** to construct Europe in the 21st century?

What **European commons** to renew the approach of art and culture?

What kinds of **alliances** to conjure up?

«

The emergencies that Syrians face, whether they are under fire, destitute, injured, disappeared or refugees, don't even allow them the possibility to reflect on their own situation. Faced with that, I am powerless. But as a writer, my rôle, and my only way is to try to analyse, explain, and enlighten. For the moment, we are in a process of growing extremism, of violence, vengeance and active war. But once a little peace returns and allows us to lift our heads and look around us, once a changed environment, restoring a minimum of justice, is established, each of us will be able to reconsider our behaviour, actions and positions.

»

Yassin al-Haj Saleh
La Syrie ne s'est pas démocratisée, c'est le monde qui s'est syrianisé
May 9th, 2016 - Libération

The results of the last elections revealed a Europe under full reconstruction. In the name of the nation and sovereignty of the people, Europe has been turned upside down with progressive conquests by national populists of projects that are confused but seductive for a certain number of us: anti-immigration, climate scepticism, anti-feminism, anti-abortion... and anti-European.

In response, European cultural civil society conceives innovative forms of solidarity action, bringing together approaches that are artistic, technical and activist. It is interrogating hospitality and the colonial past in Palermo, the reappropriation of war narratives by the Syrian diaspora in Berlin and Istanbul, an affirmation of reconciliation in Nicosia... It is setting to work on a renewed dialogue of participation, of shared justice, negotiated common interest and affirmed interdependence.

This reversal of perspectives that reflects the primary concept of a within against an outside, seems to be able to open a path to a more just European project, open to the world and its diversity. It activates a new European cultural agenda based on a civil society that is inventive. How then do we learn to build together and in a different way, as active citizens, this new "commons"?

On Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th September, resuming the path begun last year, we will consider in a more forward-looking way four European cultural commons around which to "make alliances": Acting in solidarity, Acting in rights, Assembling diversity, Community building.

During these two days of **#Conversations**, with our invitees from Europe and beyond, we will explore the challenges, opportunities and difficulties in setting the bases of the new ways of cooperation around these commons. Starting out from elsewhere. Develop in the way we represent the world. Learn to work with unusual partners, even with "adversaries". These "(un)easy alliance" are one of the conditions of being at the centre of this European reconstruction.

The Relais Culture Europe team

Pre-opening screening of the Days for a creative Europe

3rd September - 18:00 to 20:00 - Cinéma 5 Caumartin (Paris 9ème)

Invitation to Bidayyat
"Deconstruct representations"

(un)easy alliances – **Acting in solidarity**

Solidarity is the essential cultural commons for a just European society. How to face up to emergencies and create the conditions of a European culture of solidarity? How, starting from our artistic and cultural practice, to build public spaces, habitats, systems of exchange, networks of increased solidarity? How to make alliances and cooperate, in Europe, in the Mediterranean and beyond, so that each of us can play a part in the reconstruction that is under way?

(un)easy alliances – **Acting in right**

Acting in right is the cultural commons of a European society founded on equal sovereignty for all, when what might seem to be assured or guaranteed is not so, no longer so, less and less, and not for all. Starting with our artistic and cultural practice, how can we engender a culture of the right of all? How can we reconsider all of our cultural actions (designate, represent, say, speak...) as a practical act of right? How can we make alliances and cooperate, in Europe and beyond, around a right, in which we all share authorship?

(un)easy alliances – **Assembling diversity**

Gathering together diversity is a cultural commons of an open and living European society that is being constructed through permanent interaction, interdependence and friction? How can we gather together our uniqueness, living beings, technology places, practices...? How to do this without fear, among individuals, societies in the North, the South, the East, the West, that have long been separated? How to make alliances and cooperate, in Europe and beyond, for a new culture of coexistence?

(un)easy alliances – **Community building**

Community building is the cultural commons of a European society, searching for a way to define and peacefully construct a new project while everything is becoming tight and frozen. How to create the conditions for a culture of thinking and doing together? Starting with our artistic and cultural practice, how to conceive of places and forms of relationship that convey open democracy? How to reappropriate the fundamentals, deliberate, judge, negotiate? How to make alliances and cooperate, in Europe and beyond, for a culture of “organised pluralism”?

Wednesday 4th September

10.00 to 10.15

Opening
by Catherine Lalumière

10.15 to 12.30

A world made common
Don't agonize, organize!

12.30 à 14.00

Lunch break

Assembling diversity
We are not alone!

14.00 to 15.30

Community building
Reappropriating the public space
Acting in solidarity
Welcoming

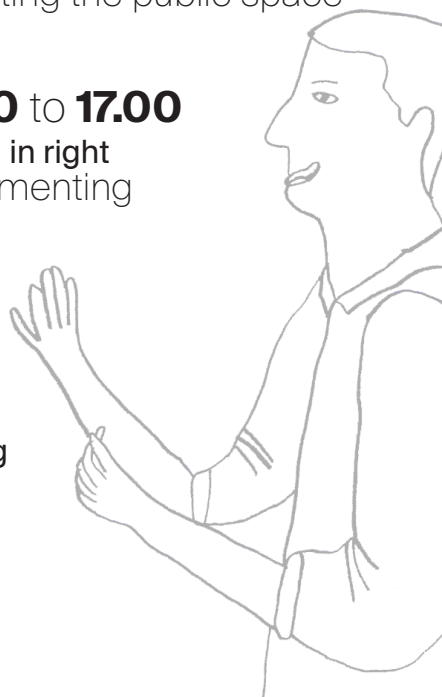
14.00 to 17.00

Acting in right
Documenting

Assembling diversity
Natural does not exist!

15.30 to 17.00

Community building
New narratives
Acting in solidarity
Networking



Morning
10.00 to 12.30

Wednesday 4th September



Opening by Catherine Lalumière

President of Relais Culture Europe

A world made common

Yassin al-Haj Saleh

Reconstructing Europe, and activating a European cultural agenda is part today of a “world made common”, understanding its fractures and violence, seeing its possibilities for justice and democracy and, through complete interdependence, finding practicable pathways.

Don't agonize, organize!

Often acting at a local level, civil society activists and artists are reorganising their activities and influence. This resonance of contemporary cultural challenges demands wider cooperation, (un)easy alliances that are of importance to us.

Afternoon
14.00 to 15.30

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in solidarity** - Welcoming

Nourishing, taking in, taking care of, paying attention to... Welcoming in equal dignity is the first gesture of solidarity. Starting from our artistic and cultural practice, how to create environments, spaces, relations and a culture of hospitality?

(un)easy alliances - **Assembling diversity** -

We are not alone!

Living beings are not just human. We are today realising that we are part of an environment of cohabitation between plants, animals, machines, geological and chemical elements...How, artistically and culturally, to recognise, take account of and connect up with this diversity? How to imagine a new culture of coexistence?

(un)easy alliances - **Community building** -

Reappropriating the public space

Artists and cultural activists are reappropriating the public space as a space of relations, circulation and interaction. They are reappropriating it through gestures, objects, narratives, ways of doing, images... How to make the public space?

14.00 to 17.00

Wednesday 4th September

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in right** - Documenting

The practices of documentation, conservation and use of archives, notably digital, are today being reappropriated as active tactics of investigation, traces, memory... How to bear witness to what has been, and to what is happening?

15.30 to 17.00

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in solidarity** - Networking

When democratic spaces are shrinking... liberty of expression in the art world becomes restricted. New forms of network appear, producing open knowledge, ensuring its accessibility, developing ideas, tools and tactics. What are these ways of acting in solidarity?

(un)easy alliances - **Assembling diversity** -

Natural does not exist!

The human is not determined and immovable. Questions of the body, sexuality and gender, are governing in an often violent way the contraction in this direction of our societies, in Europe, in the Mediterranean, in the world. How to think about a new culture of becoming?

(un)easy alliances - **Community building** - New narratives

Artistic and cultural practice offers new forms: witness, citizens' voices... What narratives do we need for community-building?

Thursday 5th September

10.00 to 11.00

Information cells on European tools

11.00 to 13.00

Acting in solidarity
Tell. Circulate

Acting in right
Making visible

Assembling diversity
East / West: resuming the
dialogue

Community building
Place-making

13.00 to 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 to 16.30

Acting in solidarity
We only have one Earth!

Acting in right
Practising democracy

Assembling diversity
The Mediterranean: through the barbarity,
a commons?

Community building
Speaking, judging,
choosing

16.30 to 18.00

Conclusion



Morning
10.00 to 11.00

Thursday 5th September

Information cells on European tools

Throughout the year, Relais Culture Europe offers to all many tools with which to inform, direct, strengthen and develop new projects (Information seminars, on line seminars, incubators, regional LabEurope, Learning Lab...).

During these morning sessions, the team of Creative Europe France will discuss perspectives and changes in the Creative Europe programme (Culture and MEDIA), and in the European Union's programmes for education (Erasmus+ - in presence of Laure Coudret-Laut, director of the French National Agency Erasmus+) and research (Horizon 2020)

11.00 to 13.00

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in solidarity** - Tell. Circulate

The wars in Syria, then that in Lybia, their images, their narratives, that are present and always one-sided, have led to a painful reconstruction of the civil sector. How to circulate images and narratives and an ethical practice that concerns us all? How to give presence to what is happening and said elsewhere?

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in right** - Making visible

Designating, representing, saying what is real is the basis for just action. Artists and cultural activists try to make visible all the juxtaposed levels of reality: what is fragile and could disappear; what reveals latent conflicts: what is important and hidden. How to build from this the possible basis for collective practice?

(un)easy alliances - **Assembling diversity** - East / West: resuming the dialogue

The dialogue between Eastern and Western Europe seems difficult today. Misunderstanding of the realities, lack of understanding of real life experiences, ignorance of separate or forgotten memory, segmented civil networks... How to create a new culture of confidence?

(un)easy alliances - **Community building** - Place-making

Community-building is about being able to dialogue between place and place, and between located culture and located culture, in all their diversity. How to create spaces of enunciation, translation and negotiation between different forms of representation? How to place-make today?

Afternoon

14.30 to 16.30

Thursday 5th September

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in solidarity** -

We only have one Earth!

The sense of emergency is more and more shared. Younger generations demand a society that is more just, more responsible and in solidarity with the living world and future generations. How to organise together, through sustainable systems of exchange and cultural production?

(un)easy alliances - **Acting in right** -

Practising democracy

In order to stay alive, democracy must be practised individually and collectively. New forms of information and deliberation are appearing, led by civil and cultural activists, new technologies and engaged citizens. From this, how to construct practice that is constant, broad and shared?

(un)easy alliances - **Assembling diversity** -

The Mediterranean: through the barbarity, a commons?

Cooperation that began in the last decades in the Mediterranean today face an ever more brutal reality. What new artistic and cultural networks are there to be imagined? How to think Euro-Mediterranean-World?

(un)easy alliances - **Community building** -

Speaking, judging, choosing

Community-building is about being able to ensure its collective rights but also those of its cultural peculiarities or those that are more broadly human. Artists and cultural activists are interrogating the numerous breaches of rights in society today. How to reappropriate the fundamentals, deliberate, judge, negotiate...

Conclusion

16.30 to 18.00

In the presence of representatives of the Ministère de la Culture (France) and the European Commission.

Our rapporteurs will provide a summary of our **#Conversations** and offer us their shared perspectives.

Practical info

ANIS GRAS "Le lieu de l'autre"
55 avenue Laplace 94110 Arcueil
www.lelieudelaautre.com



Access

RER B: station Laplace - 15 minutes by train from Châtelet-Les Halles
In front of the main exit, follow Avenue Laplace, left sidewalk, 300 meters

Bus 187, 188 and 197 - stop La Vache Noire
Bus 323 - stop Lenine
Bus 57 and 380 - stop RER Laplace

By car from Paris - Porte d'Orléans: take N20 during 1,5 kilometers
At crossroads "Les Portes d'Arcueil - Vache Noire", turn left -
direction Arcueil - Laplace

Registration

<https://relais-culture-europe.eu/fr/journees-pour-une-europe-creative-2019>

Relais Culture Europe

132 rue du faubourg Saint-Denis 75010 Paris
www.relais-culture-europe.eu
facebook.com/RelaisCultureEurope
twitter.com/RCE_infos
+33 153 409 510

Contact

Mathilde Vasseur
mathilde.vasseur@relais-culture-europe.eu
+33 182 731 678

Days for a creative Europe

Launched in 2015 in Paris by Relais Culture Europe, the Days for a creative Europe are a resolutely European space for exchanges, debates, meetings, reflection and imagination of new practices.

Thought for cultural and creative actors, these Days are increasingly being called a space co-built with the actors to confront realities, experiences and experiments on the cultural Europe of today and tomorrow.

An ephemeral laboratory, they want to be a place to make conversation, to create links and to open possibilities between actors faced with the upheavals of sectors, professions, but also daily lives.

Le Relais Culture Europe

A French National public body, Relais Culture Europe is an innovation platform on Europe and culture. It holds the function of Creative Europe Desk in France. Its mission is to support practices of European cultural innovation and the development of projects, cooperation networks and European communities of exchange and research between actors engaged in, or desiring to being engaged in, European cultural questions of today. Through a range of activities we offer to all the tools: to be informed, to find our bearings, to become stronger and to develop new projects.

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