

International Year of



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and Human Sciences

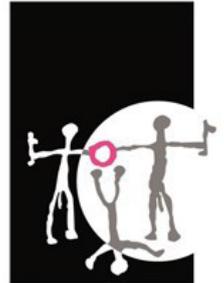


Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

En partenariat avec

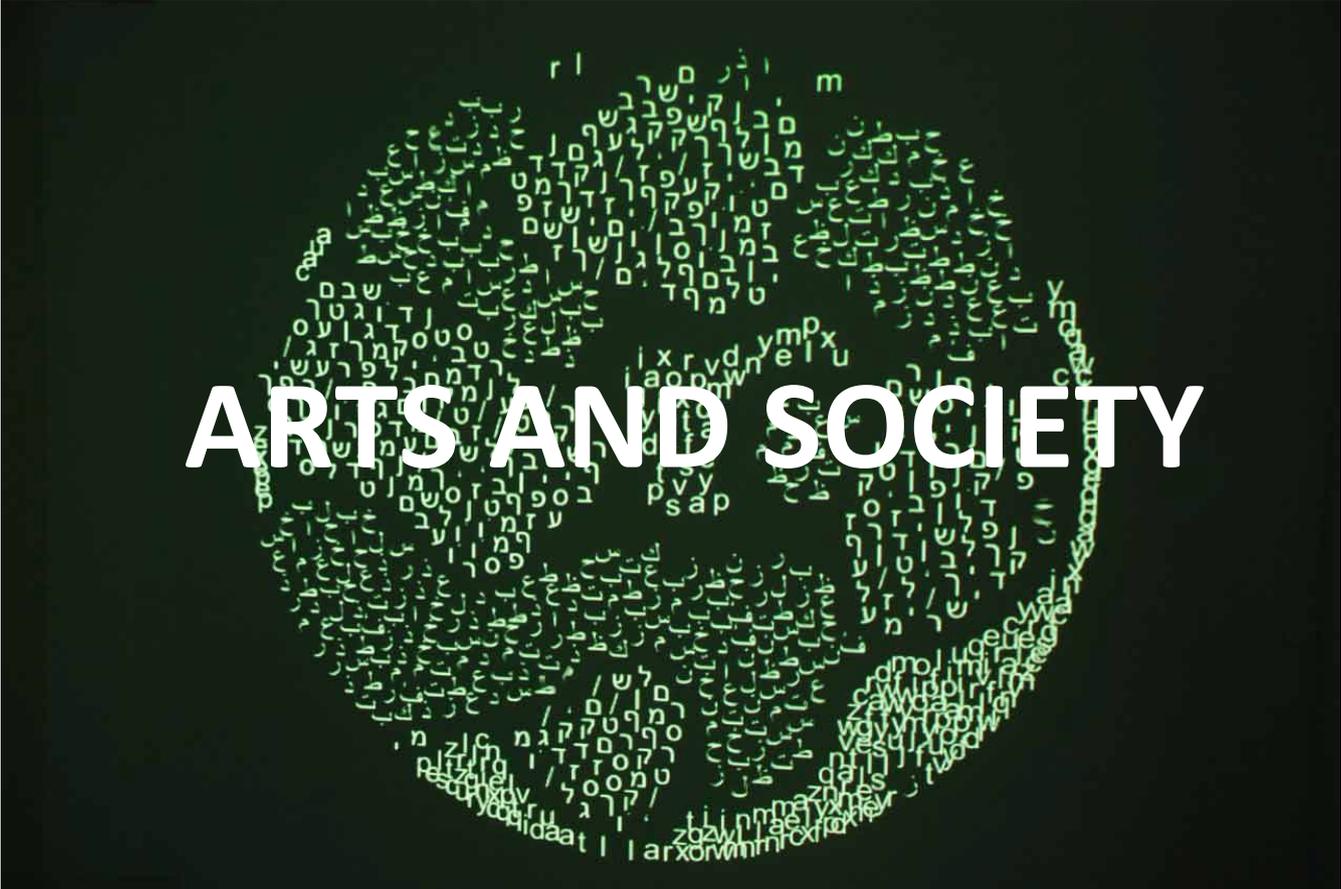


Programme pour la gestion
des transformations sociales



MÉMOIRE
DE
L'AVENIR

The International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU), Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines (CIPSH), UNESCO - MOST & Mémoire de l'Avenir (MDA)



ARTS AND SOCIETY

PROJECT

IYGU - Global Understanding – a collective initiative and a contribution towards the World Conference of the Humanities

--- **Mission:** Organize a global international movement of artists

--- **Question:** What is the role of the Arts and Artists in a world facing major changes?

WHAT- The International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) starts at the premise that all transformations of nature are based on human actions, and all human actions are based on cultural schemes of interpretations. With globalization processes the conditions for human actions have changed dramatically. Dealing successfully with cultural, social, and climate changes on a worldwide level requires people to understand their own locally embedded lives in a global context. Global understanding becomes a new *conditio humana*, or human condition. It necessitates bridging the gap between local acts and global effects—because thinking globally and acting appropriately on a local level presupposes Global Understanding.

“Knowledge is the factor that leads us to change our way of thinking. However, it is the understanding that leads to change attitudes. Global Understanding puts emphasis on culturally different paths to global sustainability.” Eliezer Batista,¹

Global Understanding helps overcome ignorance or lack of knowledge of the global implications of social, ethical and aesthetical actions. A lack of understanding of the consequences of our actions, between cultures or between people and nature may have a disastrous impact on our future. The conditions of everyone’s lives are changing. Individuals and societies must unite in order to live together in consciousness of one another and of our natural living conditions.

WHO- Each within his/her own reality can make a difference and propose actions or provide solutions. Artists demonstrate and reflect on all questions of societies and evoke encounters between people.

WHY- Today, more than ever, initiatives should favour access to knowledge and universal values, and should seek to connect worldwide problems and solutions. We need to encourage global understanding and enhance participation and collaboration beyond borders on global issues, such as education, humanities, environmental consciousness, natural sciences, ethics and esthetics.

HOW- Arts and Cultures are powerful instances and wonderful mediators in the constitution of social realities and personal mindsets, including learning and dialogue. With the ongoing rise of digital platforms, socio-cultural practices now have, theoretically, a global reach.

Arts and artists are bridging the gap between people, continents, cultures, civilizations, and time. Arts and cultures are a journey in the world of Mankind, beyond political or religious limitations.

Art is an expression and a mirror of the human mind. It progresses, criticizes, proposes, invents, thinks, transforms. It is a record of our pluralities of histories, visible and hidden ones.

1 Eliezer Batista, key initiator of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The Arts allow individuals to development within collective cultures, economies, and conflicts. It is an ideal mediator for dialogues. The arts are connecting the past, the present and the future.

The local, regional and the global, offering original regenerated practices of abstract and utilitarian methods, along to ideas, inventions, practice or aesthetics.

« ...l'histoire de l'art et celle de l'homme sont indissociables ; l'art commence avec l'homme ou même, peut-être, avec son prédécesseur direct l'Australopithèque. Dès son origine, l'homme s'affirme comme un artiste, parce qu'il partage ses premières pulsions d'artistes avec d'autres animaux, notamment peut-être avec certains grands singes, parce que, d'emblée, il collecte et collectionne les « œuvres d'art » de la nature, parce qu'il crée aussitôt des formes, il produit des traces et des tracés et, très tôt, invente les premières parures... » 2

PROPOSAL

A COLLECTIVE OF ARTISTS will illustrate via a general schema of communication, transcending locations or personal differences a better understanding of our realities, our limits, our tools, our objects, our symbols and languages, our philosophies, our choice of living, our histories, our civilization, as well as our choices going towards the future.

Nowhere on Earth are people without languages and without arts.

"Intangible cultural heritage is a living set and a perpetually constant re-creation of practices, knowledge and of representations, that enabling individuals and communities at all levels of society to express ways of seeing the world through systems values and ethical standards."3

Organize a worldwide movement of artists for Global Understanding, as a contribution for the preparatory debate on the World Conference of the Humanities.

The following proposal is written in hierarchy of implication and objectives depending on time, place and budget:

The Arts are an ongoing research on the relations amongst human beings and between human beings and nature.

An artist works out of his/her own experiences and awareness. An artist's responsibility lies not only in the aesthetic appearance of their work but also in their influence, provocation, proposal or reflexive criticism. An artist carries a responsibility to provide people with ways to discover the world, to explore the similarities and differences that exist between them and others.

2 LORBLANCHET MICHEL. 2006 Les origines de la culture, les origines de l'art, Paris (Editions le Pommier), pp

3 UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

"...the Arts are core for the transformation of realities and the ways of their reproduction. Therefore the search for the aesthetics for sustainable futures is of core importance"- Benno WERLEN

MDA with IYGU publish an OPEN CALL to unite artists FROM ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD, demonstrating the implication and contribution of artists and of the Arts towards global understanding in the following domains:

- Art and Vision,
- Art and Innovation
- Art and Evolution
- Art and Progress
- Art and Action/ Practice
- Art and Revolution
- Art and Engagement
- Art and Education
- Art and Prevention
- Art and Sustainable Development
- Art and Resistance

WHY – the Arts and Cultures are active agents in social and political actions, as in social economy and solidarity between people as between humanity and its natural living conditions, and the aesthetic appropriation of nature and its sustainable transformations...

HOW – by influencing all sociocultural activities: in prevention, in mediation, in dialogue, in participative democracy, in education...

WHOM – This call is addressed to all members of the United Nations system, which includes 206 states, divided into in three categories:

> 193 member states > 2 observer states > 11 other states. *

*The sovereignty dispute column indicates states whose sovereignty is undisputed (190 states) and states whose sovereignty is disputed (16 states). Total count of Independent states: 195⁴

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